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- SPR DISCONE ANTENNA TEST
- PROMOTING YOUR CB CLUB

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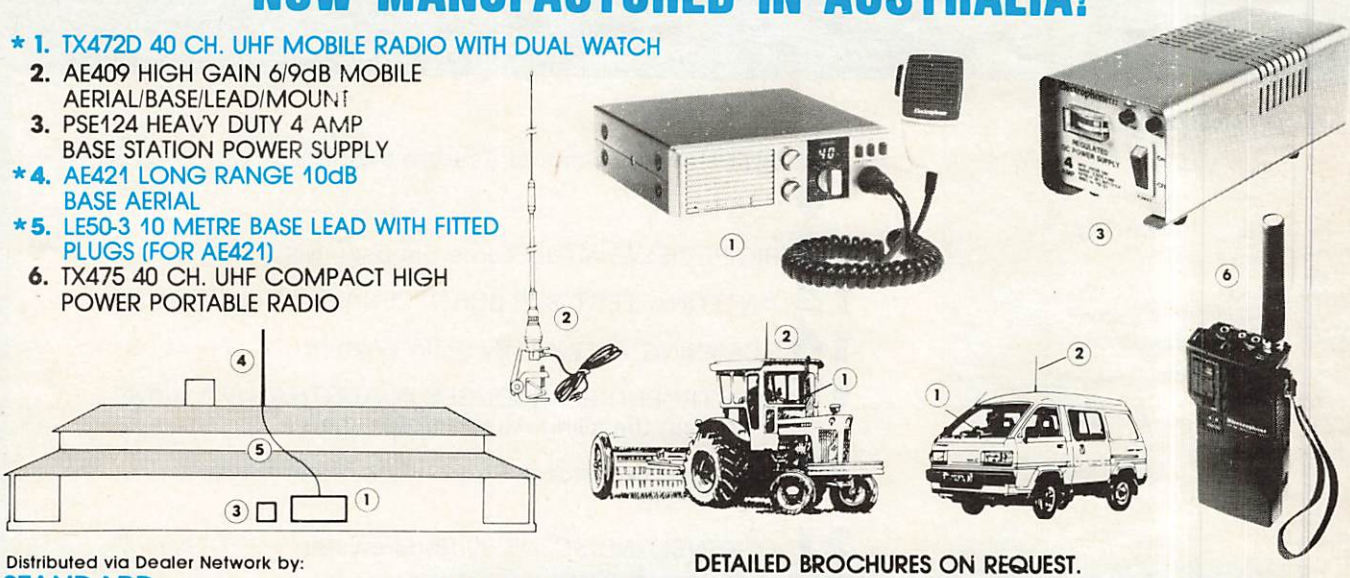

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Signature.....

On Channel

The past two months has brought a mixed bag. The introduction of new rigs shows no signs of easing, with Hatadi, Pearce-Simpson and Electrophone being the main contenders, closely followed by Gardner Electronics. Another distributor working quietly in the wings is Creative Electronics who handle the Cockatoo line. Pat Mulligan is the head honcho at Creative Electronics, and is possibly better known as the Whistler radar detector whizz.

Talking about radar detectors, how many of you know that they will be against the law in Victoria come June? Legislation is due to be passed then which will make it an offence to even own a radar detector, and our information leads us to believe that the police are going to get pretty heavy on motorists who break the law in this regard. It just goes to show how effective the radar detectors must be, but it seems to me that the whole approach to detecting speeding drivers is wrong. Invariably, speed traps are set up on stretches of road on which the existing speed limit is probably too low, such as divided highways and freeways. From my observations, some of the "quiet" suburban streets would be a more effective location to catch the speedsters who are causing most danger to human life.

No, I haven't been pinched for speeding lately, and the last time I was pinched, I deserved it. This little outburst was brought on by my pondering the way in which the Victorian government is squeezing the local motorists for every last dollar, and don't give a rat's ass how they do it.

★ ★ ★

An interesting thought with regard to the banning of 27 MHz AM. It's going to make it difficult to tune an antenna isn't it. I don't know about you, but my ability to whistle into a microphone at a constant pitch and volume is highly suspect. Maybe the whole proposal is simply a plot by the manufacturers of "final" transistors, in the hope that business will boom in 1993 . . .

★ ★ ★

You will notice that the South Australian news has had a change of correspondent, and has been re-named "Over-Bight". Contributor Andrew Gardner is a mate of young Fewster's, so we can expect some fireworks from time to time. While on the subject of Fewster, Queensland Scene, and I should include this column as well according to a letter I received, I might have to put a warning notice at the beginning — something like "THIS COLUMN CONTAINS MATERIAL WHICH MAY OFFEND SOME READERS. PARENTAL GUIDANCE RECOMMENDED". Maybe we aren't the couthest scribes that ever looked through a shirt collar, but to know us is to love us. Isn't that right Rod?

If you saw some of the little "billet doux" that Rod encloses with his column, generally directed towards our hapless (hopeless?) accounts department, or some of the bits I cut out of his column, then you would realy know the meaning of offensive. Our chief accountant has been known to hurst into tears on the receipt of a Fewster rocket — the main problem is that Fewster is always right, and bean counters don't like being wrong.

★ ★ ★

Between the time of writing this column, and when the issue actually goes on sale, I will have made another attempt to suss out the CB radio scene in Thailand. On my last visit I attempted to take in a base station scanner, but it didn't make it past the customs barrier. This time, I will try for a Bearcat 100, kindly loaned by Captain Communications. If there isn't any magazine next issue, you will know that I didn't make it — again.

★ ★ ★

You are already aware that I am not a lily-white when it comes to expressing yourself, but on air, I try to maintain a modicum of respect for other users of the band. My efforts are usually successful, except when my 12 year old calls to tell me that he is in the middle of constructing pancakes for half the kids in the neighborhood, and would I please pick up some more flour, eggs, half a dozen lemons, and something that will remove a jar of honey from the floor. But what gets into people to make them use the language which I hear constantly on the AM call channel?

Last week while doing the rig reviews I happened upon a young lady inviting listeners to do unmentioned things to her mother in the plainest possible language.

Even the truckies were incensed.

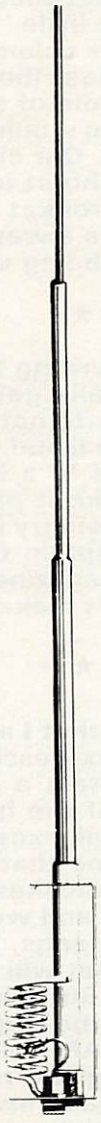
I know it will never be any different while DOC doesn't have the manpower to take action. It just makes me sad that now we have the laws to stop this sort of thing, we don't have the troops to do the job, but it makes me feel even worse to think that the job in fact has to be done.

THE NUMBER ONE BASE STATION ANTENNA

MOBILE ONE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS

BASE STATION VERTICAL

26.5 ~ 29 MHz **V27**



FEATURES

THIS ALL ALUMINIUM ANTENNA HAS BECOME **THE STANDARD** PRODUCT USED BY THE MAJORITY OF AUSTRALIAN BASE STATION OPERATORS, DUE TO ITS EASE OF INSTALLATION AND SIMPLE DESIGN.

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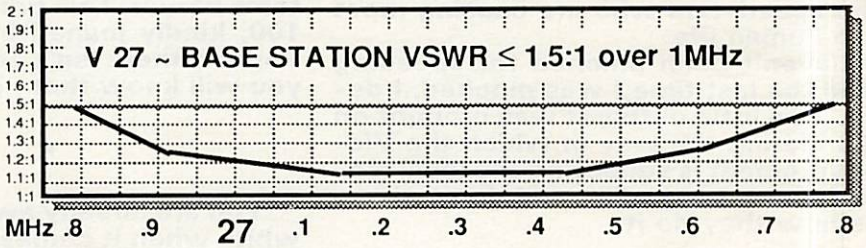
THE V27 / L COMES WITH 14 MTRS OF RG58CU COAXIAL CABLE WITH PRE-TERMINATED PL259 UHF CONNECTORS.

VSWR



SPECIFICATIONS

TYPE.....PHYSICAL 1/2 WAVE WITH 3/4 WAVE FEED
ORDERCODE.....V 27 / L
TUNING.....PRESET AT FACTORY
FREQUENCY.....26.5 ~ 29 MHz
IMPEDANCE.....50 OHMS
MAX.POWER.....1 KILOWATT MAX.
TERMINATION.....SO239 ~ FEMALE UHF CONNECTOR
PATTERN.....OMNI DIRECTIONAL VERTICAL
APPLICATION.....BASE STATION
VSWR.....≤1.5:1 over 1 MHz

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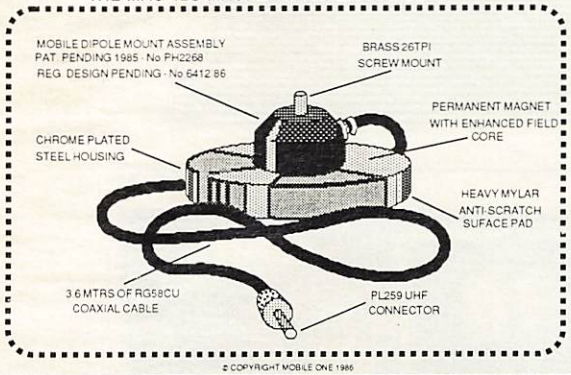
MOST AUSTRALIAN STANDARD 5/16" x 26TPI FEMALE SCREW THREAD WHIPS (TO A MAXIMUM WEIGHT OF 200 GRAMS) CAN BE USED WITH THE *MAG 12C*.

ALL TERMINATIONS ARE ENCAPSULATED IN THE GLASS IMPREGNATED NYLON MOULDING OF THE NEW "MOBILE DIPOLE MOUNT" BASE ASSEMBLY, (PATENT & DESIGN REG. PENDING) GIVING MAXIMUM MECHANICAL STRENGTH AND TOTAL WEATHER PROTECTION FOR ALL ELECTRICAL CONNECTIONS.

ANOTHER FEATURE OF THIS UNIQUE MOUNT IS THE ANTI-SCRATCH PROTECTION PAD, MADE FROM MYLAR FIBRES. IT IS TOUGH AND LONG LASTING, YET WILL NOT SCRATCH OR DAMAGE THE PAINTWORK OF YOUR VEHICLE.

THE MAG 12C MAGNETIC ANTENNA MOUNT


MOBILE DIPOLE MOUNT ASSEMBLY
PAT. PENDING 1985 - No PH2268
REG. DESIGN PENDING - No 6412/86
BRASS 26TPI SCREW MOUNT
PERMANENT MAGNET WITH ENHANCED FIELD CORE
CHROME PLATED STEEL HOUSING
HEAVY MYLAR ANTI-SCRATCH SUFACE PAD
3.6 MTRS OF RG58CU COAXIAL CABLE
PL259 UHF CONNECTOR

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MOBILE ONE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS — DIPOLE MOUNT

MOBILE ONE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS — DIPOLE MOUNT

MOBILE DIPOLE MOUNT ASSEMBLY

REG. DESIGN No. 6412 / 86 - PATENT PENDING No. PH2268

FEATURES

THE **MOBILE DIPOLE MOUNT ASSEMBLY** IS A NEW REVOLUTIONARY AND **TOTALLY WEATHER-PROOF** ANTENNA MOUNTING SYSTEM FOR THE HF AND VHF BANDS.

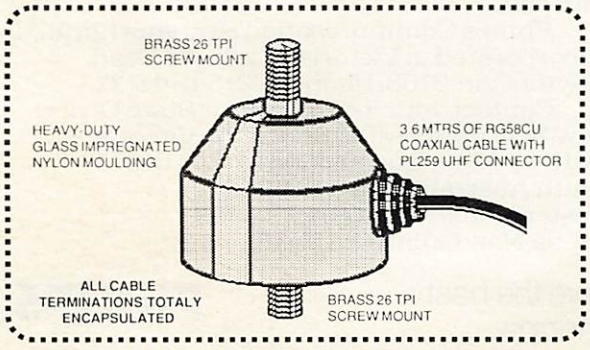
OVER THE YEARS, THE ANTENNA USER HAS HAD A VAST ARRAY OF DIFFERENT MODEL ANTENNAE TO CHOOSE FROM, YET ANTENNA MOUNTING SYSTEMS HAVE REMAINED VIRTUALY UNCHANGED, AND TERMINATIONS HAVE TIPICALLY BEEN EXPOSED TO THE ELEMENTS.

NOW, THROUGH MOBILE ONE'S UNIQUE INJECTION MOULDING PROCESS, A WHOLEY SELF CONTAINED, TOTALLY ENCAPSULATED, SHOCK PROOF AND WEATHER RESISTANT ANTENNA MOUNTING SYSTEM HAS BEEN CREATED.

THIS UNIQUE CONCEPT MEANS THAT YOU CAN NOW MOUNT YOUR ANTENNA DIRECT TO A MAGNETIC BASE MOUNT, BOOT MOUNT, GUTTER MOUNT, MIRROR OR ROOF RACK MOUNT.

AN ECONOMICAL BASE STATION ANTENNA CAN ALSO BE CONSTRUCTED.

MOST OF THE EVERY DAY MOUNTING APPLICATIONS YOU CAN THINK OF WILL READILY UTILISE THE MOBILE DIPOLE MOUNT ASSEMBLY.


BRASS 26 TPI SCREW MOUNT
HEAVY-DUTY GLASS IMPREGNATED NYLON MOULDING
3.6 MTRS OF RG58CU COAXIAL CABLE WITH PL259 UHF CONNECTOR
ALL CABLE TERMINATIONS TOTALY ENCAPSULATED
BRASS 26 TPI SCREW MOUNT

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MOBILE ONE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS — BOOT MOUNT

S B M — STAINLESS BOOT MOUNT

FEATURES

THE MOBILE ONE **STAINLESS BOOT MOUNT** IS AN AUSTRALIAN MADE ANTENNA MOUNTING SYSTEM, DESIGNED AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR FRONT OR REAR GUARD MOUNTING AND FITS THE BONNET OR BOOT OF MOST VEHICLES.

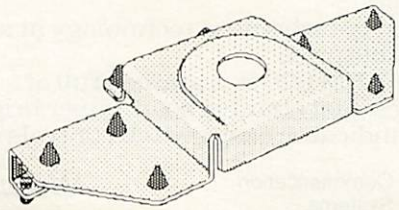
THE UNIQUE FEATURE OF THE **S.B.M.** IS THAT IT CAN BE INSTALLED WITHOUT DRILLING HOLES OR DAMAGING THE VEHICLE.

USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PATENTED **'MOBILE DIPOLE MOUNT'**, **'A12C'** (HF VHF),**'UL12C'** (UHF) BASE AND LEAD ASSEMBLY, IT IS POSSIBLE TO MOUNT WHIPS WITH THE AUSTRALIAN STANDARD 5/16" x 26 TPI FEMALE SCREW THREAD.

WITH THE ADDITION OF A SUITABLE CONNECTOR SUCH AS THE **S.O.C.** COAXIAL SO239 BASE TYPE, THE MOUNT CAN THEN ACCOMMODATE WHIP ANTENNAE WITH A PL259 BASE TERMINATION.

INSTALLATION

1. INSTALL APPROPRIATE BASE ASSEMBLY ONTO MOUNT.
2. OPEN THE BOOT OR BONNET.
3. SLIDE THE BOOT MOUNT OVER THE LIP OF THE BOOT OR BONNET.
4. SECURE THE STAINLESS STEEL SCREWS WITH THE ALLEN KEY PROVIDED.
5. RUN COAXIAL CABLE INSIDE TO THE TRANSMITTER AND VSWR ANTENNA.



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LOG BOOK

STICKERS ON THE WAY

Richard Bailey's warning (CB Action, Dec. 1986) about DOC plans to introduce a 'sticker' system for vehicles fitted with licensed mobile transmitters has been clearly underlined by the Department.

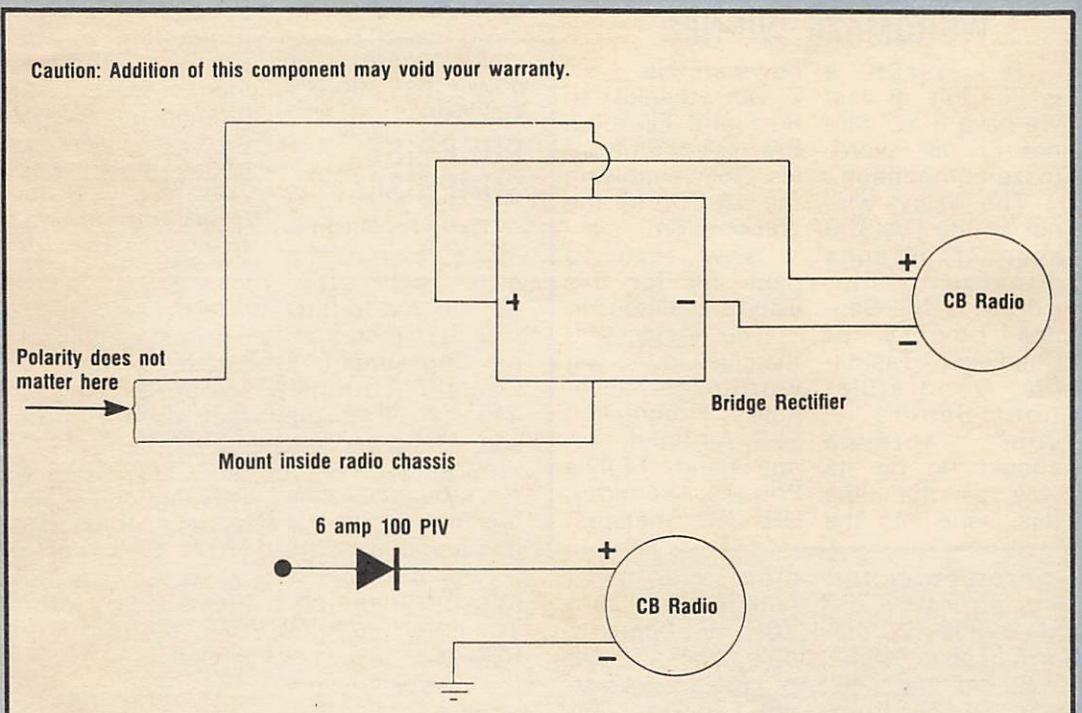
The DOC's plans are spelt out in its 'Information Paper' on the new Spectrum Management and Information System (SMIS).

Stage One of SMIS got off to a rocky start late last year (see 'AMFAR dies' in this issue), and the Department has firm plans, in Stage Two, to "introduce a system of label registration for mobile radio communications transmitters — this is necessary to bring unlicensed operation of mobiles under better control".

"In some services," the Information Paper says, "estimates indicate that 50% or more of operating units are unlicensed. This places an unfair financial burden on licensed users."

"Unlicensed operation also leads to a lack of discipline in radio communications operations which prejudices efficient use of the spectrum and interferes with the legitimate communications of licensed users."

One observer of the comms scene chose to put it another way: "Unbridled ambition also leads to a lack of common sense in DOC operations which prejudices the Minister's chances of re-election and confirms the faceless ones in their isolation from reality — to the detriment of those they allegedly exist to serve."



One more simple way to protect your rig—If power is connected backwards nothing will happen due to reverse bias which causes blocking action of diode.
When connected correctly diode conducts and radio will operate.

UHF HAM LINK FOR SYDNEY-MELBOURNE

A plan to join Sydney and Melbourne via UHF is being developed by amateur operators.

Using the 432 MHz amateur allocation, and under DOC's new policy to allow inter-linking of ham repeaters, the network will utilise a chain of specially-commissioned repeaters along the route.

When completed, a UHF amateur operator will be able to remain on-air for the complete duration of the trip between the two capital cities.

Although a passing thought of some amateurs over the past years, it was only DOC's decision, and a burst of enthusiastic work by Sydney's inimitable Sam Voron, which got the plan off the ground late last year.

With the foundations laid, the project was adopted by the Trio-Kenwood Amateur Radio Club. Both the Kenwood and Icom companies, who are leaders in the UHF amateur field, have agreed to each cover half the cost of the capital city repeaters — Kenwood's is already licensed, and will be mounted atop Sydney's Northpoint building.

Other repeaters along the route will be developed by local amateur radio clubs, with the TKARC co-ordinating and assisting the network growth stage.

DELTA BASE TIP

How many times have you lent your radio to your mate, only to have it come back to you not working? More often than not they have connected the power the wrong way and have blown the protective diode.

From the last issue of CB ACTION you know that is becoming expensive to have even the diode replaced, especially in Sydney.

LOG BOOK

WORDMAZE WINNER

It's taken a while, but at last we have a YL winner in our wordmaze competition.

The lucky winner of the DA-300 scanner antenna donated by Emtronics is Ms Sandra Lowery of Chudleigh, Tasmania. Congratulations Sandra — your antenna should be on its way by the time this issue hits the news stands.

Our thanks to Rudi and Elizabeth Breznick of Emtronics for supplying the DA-300 for the competition.

Now turn to page 54 for this issue's brainteaser.

The answers to the clues in the last wordmaze were: Police, Firebrigade, SES, Air Band, Marine Band, Mobile Phones, Security, UHF CB, Amateurs.

Protection for your protection diode comes in the form of an inexpensive little 'bit' (approx $4.00) from most electronic outlets. It is a 6amp 100 PIV bridge rectifier. Technicalities of how it works are not important, but it does work. No matter which way you connect your power the radio will still work.

SURPRISE, SURPRISE!

Delta Base Communications have a most interesting letter nailed to their wall. It comes from the Department of Communications, and concerns the use of power microphones, which we thought were a big no-no. It appears that we are laboring under a misapprehension. The letter reads as follows:

"I refer to your letter, addressed to the State Manager requesting advice on the Department's Policy Regarding the use of Power Microphones in the Citizen Band Radiocommunication Service (CBRS).

Power Microphones are permitted to be used in the CBRS provided they do not cause interference to other stations or services and when used in conjunction with a specific transceiver, do not appreciably distort the transmitted signal.

I note that in your own case you do not appear to be causing interference to any of the other tenants in the flats and provided this situation continues, then the Department would have no objection to you using the Power Microphone. I should point out, however, that if a complaint of interference is reported, you shall be required to stop using this device until the problem has been overcome.

It is pleasing to see that your club is so well organised. The Department fully supports clubs which operate in the manner referred to in your letter.

Yours Sincerely
C. Cohen
Assistant Manager
(regulatory)

AWARD FOR VIKING FOUNDER

Yvonne Shearin, Viking 8 and founder member of Sydney's Viking CB Radio Club, has been honoured with an Achievement Award from the local community.

First entering CB radio in 1977, she originally bought the rig as a hobby for one of her children. Now, ten years on, the 'Viking Base' can still be heard on air from 6am to midnight nearly every day.

It is as hard to list the many activities of Yvonne and her Vikings, as it is to count the hours she has dedicated to helping others through CB radio.

Fund-raising, emergency assistance, charity work — but Yvonne refuses to take sole credit for the efforts. The club has over 150 members, and is itself one of the city's largest CB groups.

It's all voluntary, of course, but Yvonne doesn't mind the long hours. 'I get a lot of enjoyment out of it' she said, 'and there is a great satisfaction in knowing you're helping others'.

CB ACTION congratulates Yvonne on her award and community spirit — the Vikings have someone to be proud of.

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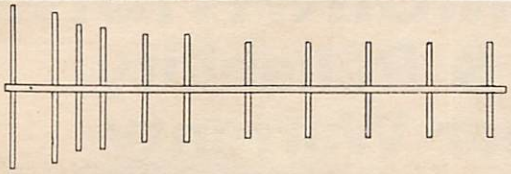

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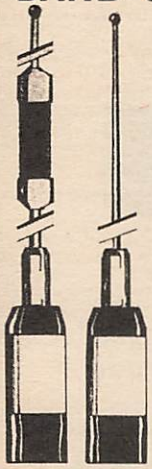

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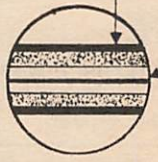

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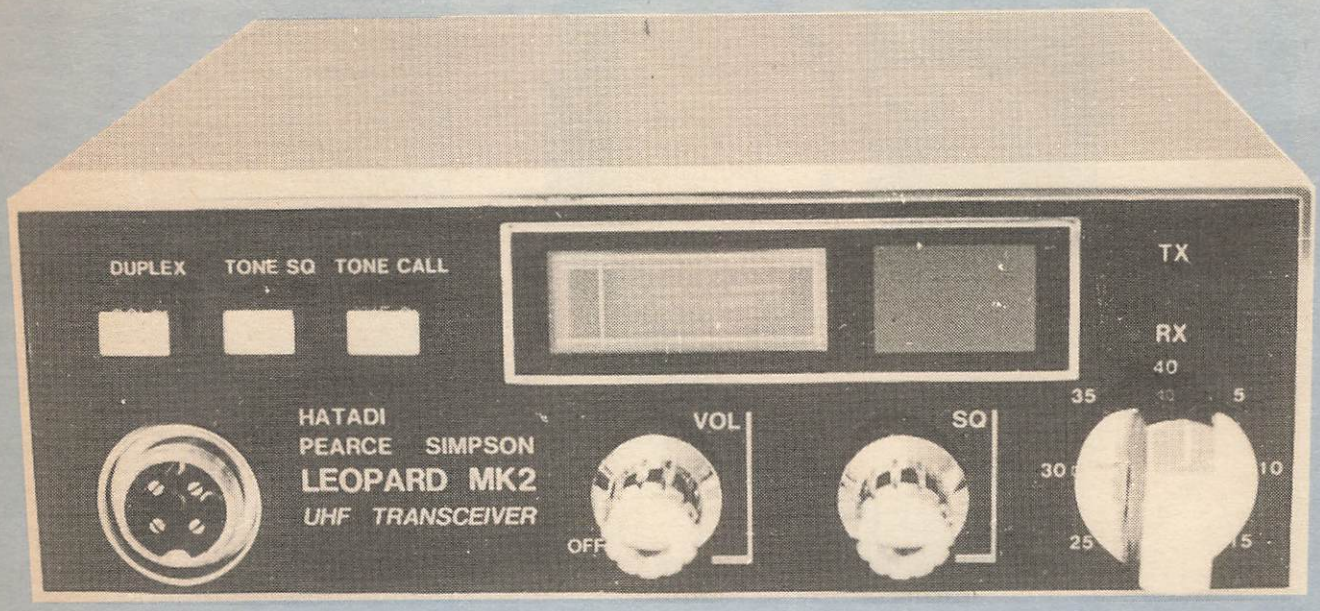
RIG REPORT

MATADI PEARCE-SIMPON

LEOPARD MK2



Once again you lot out there will have to be content with a user review rather than a full test. Ken Reynolds, our testing tech is slighly indisposed, having seen fit to let the clever gentlemen in their white coats and masks muck around with his arterial plumbing. As a mutual friend said, "No wonder he's got a dickie ticker putting up with you lot." Fair comment.

It's a while since we have tested a new UHF rig, although from what we hear, there is at least one other in the pipeline.

But at this point in time, it's the Pearce-Simpson Leopard Mk 2's turn in the limelight. Initial impressions of the Leopard Mk 2 are primarly no nonsense, no frills, down to early UHF CB. The front panel is black with chrome trim, and white lettering for each control function. The most noticeable feature is an analogue S/RF meter, which has, in the main, been made redundant with the advent of the progressive LED bar system. We have mixed feelings regarding this feature — it's of interest to see the actual comparative signal from different stations, and may have certain benefits during antenna tests and the like. However, from a purely practical point of view, on UHF you can either hear 'em, or you can't — there is virtually no middle ground.

The controls are self-explanatory to anyone with a working knowledge of UHF CB — until you read the owner's guide section relating to the Tone Squelch. The unit we had for test did not have 'tone call' (selective calling) fitted, so we couldn't check out whether the instructions were in fact correct. Sufficient to say that the instructions didn't seem to adequately cover the operation of this feature especially from a new UHF CBer's point of view.

The overall layout of the controls on the front panel is good. On the left side of the panel we find three push button switches. The left hand switch selects the inbuilt repeater or duplex facility, the centre switch selects the tone call muting mode, and the right hand switch is a push button tone call generator (where time call is fitted). The microphone socket is located below these three switches.

There are three rotary controls to the right of centre on the bottom half of the front panel. These, from left to right, control: on/off/volume; squelch; channel selection. The S/RF meter is atop this bank of controls, with the LED channel readout located on the right. The channel readout is a red LED. There are two small indicator lights to the right of the channel readout showing green in receive mode, and red in transmit.

There are no indicator lights to show whether duplex or tone call modes have been selected, which could be a pain in the pinny when operating mobile in the dark.

The rear panel is standard UHF fare, with an antenna socket, power receptacle, and provision for the connection of an external speaker. The only unusual feature is the number of self tappers evident — would you believe 13? Lord only knows what hangs from them inside the back panel, but you can be assured that whatever is there won't fall off in a hurry.

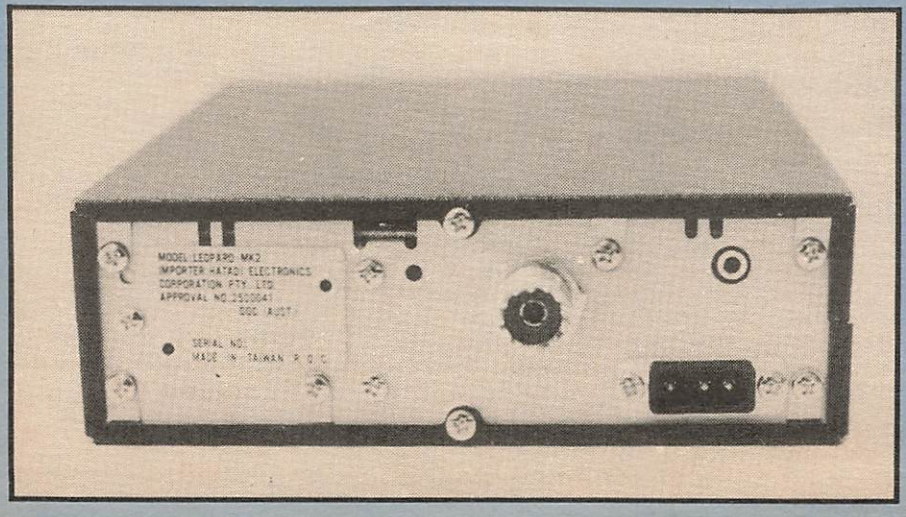
The mounting bracket deserves comment. It is a tastefully finished black affair — lately the trend has been towards the Japanned finish

— and features a positive three position angle slot, with two mounting screws each side. It's good and solid, but somehow we would prefer the mount to be slotted for easy mounting and dismounting. Nine out of ten, Messrs Pearce and Simpson . . .

The microphone is what we would call standard issue.

As we pointed out earlier, there will be no bench test figures, simply comments on what was heard with the Mk 1 earhole, and the reaction of the recipients of the transmitted audio.

Note the abundance of self tappers on the rear panel of the Leopard



The recovered audio from the in-built speaker was very good, and easy to listen to for long periods — it had to be — the QSO on our test channel went on forever on some obscure subject which appeared to be related to the mating habits of the Peruvian trotting duck. The transmitted audio was reported as being natural and 'full bodied'. Maybe it had something to do with the bottle of ink which was to be our reward for a job well done, but got skittled a tad earlier than it should have.

The guarantee card should be read carefully, as in our opinion it seems to be contradictory in a couple of areas. Clause 1 states that the unit, if faulty, must be returned to Hatadi, together with the operating instructions, particulars of the problem, and the guarantee card, however, a large notice on the top of the same page tells you to read the important note on the back of the card. This states that the unit must be returned to your dealer, or nearest Pearce-Simpson Service Centre, but no list of dealers or service centres is supplied.

The second clause which grabbed our attention was clause six, which states that the guarantee will not be honored if the unit has not been installed by "a qualified radio technician (eg car radio shop)". This seems to make a mockery of the fitting instructions in the owner's manual, which in our opinion are directed towards the CBer who wants to do the job himself. We will reserve judgement on this, but check it out with your dealer and make sure exactly you know where you stand as far as he is concerned.

Mind you, after seeing some of the 'do it yourself' installations that come into our tech's workshop, we can understand Hatadi's reluctance to offer a blanket guarantee.

Overall, the Leopard Mk 11 seems to be a worthy contender for your dollar in the UHF stakes — lope down to your dealer and check out its spots.

The recommended retail price is $449 and our thanks to Hatadi Pearce-Simpson for supplying the rig for review.

"ANTENNA REPORT"—SPR SCANTENNA

By GREG CROAD

A few months ago I swapped some of my no-longer-needed CB gear for a Saika SC-7000 scanner.

Never having been into scanning before I didn't really know what to expect, and I was surprised at how hard the bug bites.

The Saiko performed quite well with the supplied telescopic whip, but as my interest in scanning strengthened I began looking for a more efficient antenna.

Every scanner freak I spoke to told me that the discone is the only choice for serious scanning, but when I began checking magazines for prices my wallet had heart failure.

Discones, apart from a simple three-legged job at around a hundred bucks which several enthusiasts told me is practically useless, have price tags ranging from around $200 for an 80 MHz to 450 MHz model to nearly $400 for a 25 MHz to 1300 MHz model. I just wasn't that keen on improving reception.

A couple of weeks ago I had to go down to Brisbane to pick up a new Land Cruiser, and I dropped in to South Pacific Radio for the bits I needed to fit my old CB in the vehicle.

I should have contacted South Pacific Radio when I first started looking for a discone, considering that I've carted an SPR-27 vertical and one of their "Starduster" beams halfway around Australia and back for the past three years or so, but I didn't even know they made one.

A demonstration had me convinced that this was just what I needed, and the price tag of $99 including cable suited my hip pocket, so I grabbed one while I was there.

The "Scantenna" is a piece of cake to assemble. Even though the instructions are a bit on the sparse side you'd have to be really thick to foul it up.

Both the disc and the cone look like Swiss cheese, with holes punched all over the place for attaching the elements. These are fixed in place with two tiny screws apiece. A bit fiddly, but larger screws would be out of the question due to the small diameter of the elements.

There are sixteen elements in all — four each of four different sizes. The shorter elements are fixed under the disc and the longer elements are fixed under the cone, with each size alternating so that opposing elements are the same size. (If that sounds complicated, it isn't).

The "Scantenna" comes complete with 15 metres of military specification RG-58 cable, but no mounting brackets. (I used a pair of U-bolts and clamps which I picked up for a couple of dollars from the TV antenna section of the local K-Mart).

On-air I noticed a marked improvement in reception over the old telescopic whip when using the "Scantenna". There's no signal meter on the Saiko so I can't quote figures, but I was able to hear many commercial UHF stations I previously didn't know existed. Funnily enough some of them turned out to be quite close by, yet I couldn't hear them when I changed back to the whip. (Probably very low-powered base stations).

My old FM-320 likes the "Scantenna" too. I don't have a UHF base stick, and although the discone doesn't have a great deal of gain it sure beats the pants off the mobile antenna in the Cruiser. (While demonstrating the "Scantenna" the boys at South Pacific Radio fired up on the two-metre and seventy-centimetre amateur bands and the UHF-CB, and showed me an SWR of under 1.5:1 on each band)

RF is essentially lazy. Provided that there is a point which is somewhere near resonant in an antenna it wanders around ignoring practically everything else until it finds that point, then it leaps out and does its thing. (This is the principle behind trapped antennas and log periodics. RF sees only what it wants to see).

Although broadband by nature, typically covering several octaves of frequency, discones have distinct high and low cut-off frequencies above and below which the SWR curve rises rapidly. In other words, it is theoretically impossible to construct a discone which will cover a thousand megs or more.

With the "Scantenna" and other discones of this type the "lazy" nature of RF allows it to see the combination of the actual disc and cone to which the elements are attached as a "small" discone, the combination of the shorter elements as a "medium" discone, and the combination of the longer elements as a "large" discone. There is a slight reduction in transmit efficiency when compared against dedicated individual discones of the same size, but you'd need a mountain of test gear to detect any reduction in efficiency when receiving. It's a sneaky way of fooling a transmitter into thinking it's hooked up to three discones, each resonant over a wide range of frequencies, at the same time, and the law of reciprocity dictates that if an antenna is resonant enough to transmit through then it must receive better than an antenna which is out of resonance.

South Pacific Radio quote the operating range of the "Scantenna" as 100 MHz to 600 MHz, but the antenna's on-air performance seems to indicate that these figures are far too modest.

With a cone skirt depth of about 55mm the "Scantenna" theoretically should fire up well above 1000 MHz, which is way beyond my Saiko's capabilities. (During the demo on the IC-R7000 we picked up clear traffic on 800-odd MHz and we even picked up some scrambled transmissions above 1200 MHz).

The "Scantenna" receives extremely well right through the Saiko's frequency range of 60 MHz to 520 MHz and even receives reasonably on 27 MHz, although nowhere near as well as my SPR-27.

It seems that South Pacific Radio used to advertise the "Scantenna" but haven't done so for some time.

There must be hundreds of scanner enthusiasts who, like myself, wouldn't spend megabucks on an imported discone but would jump at the chance to get more enjoyment out of their hobby with the Australian-made "Scantenna" for $99.

SCANNING AROUND

By JOHN WILLMOTT

The rate at which I've been receiving letters from readers has been quite staggering and I will answer each one personally.

I don't have answers to all your queries — but I will do my best.

It may take a little time, but I will get an answer out to each one of you — promise!

For those readers who have asked about aerials for their scanners I have a short answer:- "Don't hold your breath!"

Scanner operators, by definition, want to hear a whole range of stations and must therefore compromise.

What will work best for reception will depend on the equipment you are using, the location of your site, and the location of the station you want to hear.

When I obtained my first monitor — 18 years ago — I soon discovered that compromise was essential.

The majority of stations that I choose to monitor are in low or high VHF, so, I settled for an aerial on my car which was cut for 163MHz.

That's a compromise which allows me to hear all those things I most want to hear.

Some stations display more clarity than others, but they are readable.

It gives me an advantage during the summer in that I know I will pick up everything that's happening on the fire frequencies in the Adelaide Hills — 163 to 163.500 MHz!

Remember, experiment and compromise.

In an earlier column I wrote of fire frequencies around Australia and am grateful for the reader replies confirming my observations.

Unfortunately, I've heard nothing from Queensland or WA. So, if you've got any information about fire frequencies in those two States, please drop me a line.

One reader has suggested that I produce a similar column on Police, Ambulance and State Emergency Service frequencies, something I'd be happy to do!

However, there's a catch. I can't do it on my own — I need your help!

Let me have your notes on the frequencies used in your area, channel numbers, the use of call signs, and the meanings of various codes.

I can start the ball rolling by saying that there is national agreement amongst the Police Forces and DOC that Police UHF shall be conducted on the 64 channels starting at 467.850MHz.

It's up to you to let me know specific details of their use in your area.

I'm something of a traditionalist in my scanning in that I listen solely to VHF/UHF.

Lately I've been discovering that there's a growing number of HF listeners out there — and a few SW listeners too.

Let's hear from you fellas! What do you listen to, what would you like to read in this column about your favorite band?

If you've been having problems in trying to read and understand the mass of information contained DOC's AMFAR, this issue of CB Action will prove very helpful.

Richard Barrett, author of the E.S.G. Frequency Registers, has produced an article explaining how AMFAR is compiled and letting readers in on some of its secrets.

Good one!

A few weeks ago I came across what must be one of the best kept secrets in Australian scanning — the fact that SONY actually do have a number of their 'AIR-7' handhelds scattered around among their own dealers.

Being something of an idiot, I'd expected to find scanners only in retail outlets normally dealing in such equipment!

In a brief telephone call to the local SONY office I was informed that the sets were a small part of the company's product range and that they didn't bother to promote them.

After a big of a search they were able to tell me that they didn't have one around the place but were able to suggest than an Adelaide Hi-Fi dealer might have one or two on the shelf.

So, I took myself off to Grenfell Plaza Hi-Fi where owner Angelo Trotta was quite happy to show me the AIR-7 and suggest that I take it away for the weekend and "give it a try".

Try it I did! I found it perfect for listening to the aviation nav/com band.

Easy to operate, the set had the added attraction of some low VHF and — would you believe — 150 to 2194kHz!

If this is the sort of set you'd like, you had better be prepared to hunt around on your local SONY dealer's shelves to find one.

E.S.G. has started release of its 1987 Frequency Registers with a West Australian edition — and an updated South Australian edition.

This follows closely on the heels of a Tasmanian VHF-UHF Register.

Now that AMFAR has been reduced — and is to be further reduced — these Registers are a must for all scanner buffs!

All mail to:

SCANNING AROUND.
G.P.O. BOX 1200,
Adelaide 5001
South Australia

ELECTROPHONE PRODUCES IN AUSTRALIA

Ted Dunn, Managing Director of Standard Communications proudly displays an Australian TX472D UHF.

Standard Communications have taken a positive step to counter the effect of the devaluation of the Australian dollar — commonly known as the South Pacific Peso — against the Japanese yen.

They have moved the manufacturing plant for their new UHF TX472D transceiver to Australia.

The decision to switch to Australian manufacture is a major move in the 27 year history of the company, involving the expenditure of half a million dollars in tooling, plant, and computerised test equipment.

The decision to move the manufacture of their top selling model to Australia from Japan was made last July, following the collapse of the Australian dollar which made the Japanese cost prohibitive.

The new TX472D has been designed around the latest microchip technology, and the Australian production will involve the automatic insertion of components and the surface mounted micro-chips, an automatic production line and advanced automatic testing procedures.

These sophisticated manufacturing techniques provide a considerable advance in consistency of performance and long term reliability.

The TX472D will retain all the features of the older TX472, and in addition will offer a "dual watch" facility, which will enable the operator to listen on a selected channel while simultaneously monitoring the traffic on one other nominated channel. The new model will also feature an optional single button selcall for discreet listening.

Electrophone have also announced the release of several other new models for 27 MHz — the TX820 AM/SSB, and TX840 AM only, plus the new Colt 55 AM only.

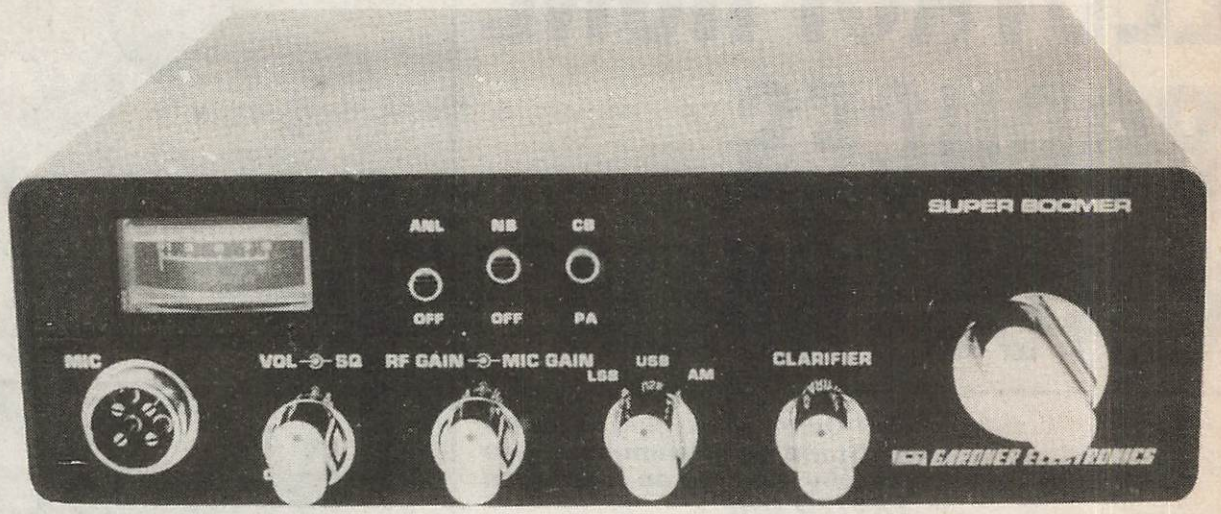
The new Colt 55 has an innovation which will appeal to truckies and other road users. Electrophone have opted for a channel 8 instant recall, rather than the traditional channel 9 emergency channel recall which we have had in the past. See the New Gear pages for further details.

Our congratulations go to Ted Dunn and the Standard Communications team for taking a positive step to keep down the prices of CB equipment.

With any luck we should have one of the Australian made units for test in our next issue!

The new Colt 55 AM only rig.

RIG REPORT



SUPER BOOMER AM/SSB

The America's Cup may have left Western Australia, but Gardner Electronics is still alive and well. Their latest offering is the Super Boomer AM/SSB 27 MHz, and maybe we are showing our age, but we felt very comfortable with this unit.

When we were cutting our CB teeth, S/RF meters were the in thing — these new fangled LED indicators were still in the future and the inclusion of a "proper" S/RF meter on the front panel of the Super Boomer had a lot to do with this feeling of well being.

But, enough of this reminiscing.

The front panel of the Super Boomer is what could almost be described as stark — plain black, with white lettering for the control functions, and chrome plated control knobs and switches.

The microphone connector — screw in type — is located on the left of the front panel, just below the S/RF meter. To the right of the mic. socket are four rotary controls: a concentric (piggy back) control for on/off/volume, and squelch; another concentric control for RF gain and mic. gain; mode selector; clarifier.

There are three, two position switches mounted in the top centre of the panel: ANL; separate noise blanker; CB/PA selector.

The channel selector and channel readout are on the right hand side of the panel.

The rear panel is conventional — antenna socket, positive locking power connector, and two miniature sockets for an external speaker, and a PA speaker respectively.

The mounting hardware supplied is a mixed bag. The bracket is solid, with a Japanned finish, featuring slot to make mounting and dismounting the rig easier. Good stuff, but the screws which hold the unit in place are, to put not too fine a point on it, ordinary. Maybe we are still living in the past, but mounting screws used to be nice chunky knurled knobs, not the stamped butterfly headed jiggers which seem to be getting more and more common these days.

In our opinion the average CBer wouldn't mind kicking in the extra few cents for the better quality hardware.

As we have mentioned elsewhere, our tech is slightly indisposed, and we won't be confusing you with bench test figures this issue. You will have to make do with a simple on-air test.

The recovered audio from the inbuilt speaker was excellent, and the transmitted audio was reported as being clear and strong.

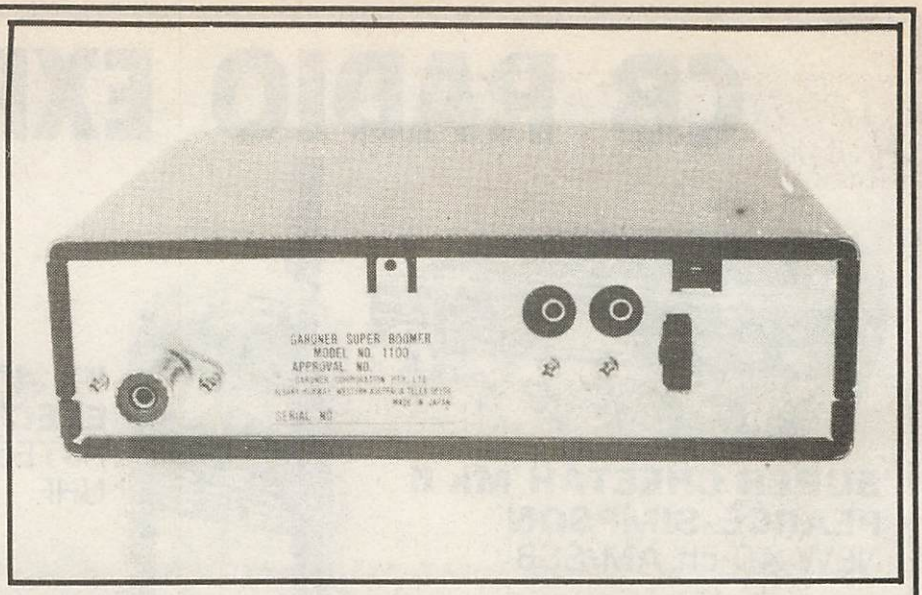
The controls have a nice solid feel about them, but we have a couple of suggestions which would improve their operation.

The outer ring of the two concentric controls could do with the additon of some knurling to provide

a bit of grip, and we would also like to see the addition of indicator LEDs to show what mode has been selected — upper sideband, lower sideband, or AM. Obviously, this last suggestion would cost money which would add dollars to the initial cost of the rig, so maybe we should simply buy a new pair of specs and put up with the existing system.

Adjacent channel interference from our local bucket mouth was acceptable — if such a term applies to a guy who is in the habit of timing his "overs" in days rather than minutes. He runs through a four element quad beam, and if it's pointed in our direction, it's all over, Red Rover, regardless of what we are testing.

The Super Boomer is labelled "Made in Japan", and we couldn't resist having a look inside. Sure enough, the circuit displays all the earmarks of Japanese electronic technology. The board is very busy, and did not seem to have the many unused component locations or spare tracks which have become fairly common with circuits being modified from one basic design to suit each different brand — all from the one circuit board supplier.



The instruction booklet which comes with the rig is quite good, and includes a circuit diagram to make a technicians life a little easier. It also gives some helpful hints on tracing mobile ignition noise.

The Super Boomer is available from all Crazy Charlie outlets — and maybe Kooka 3 would have performed a hit better if Ian Murray had had one on board. (The Gardner Corporation also have a 27MHz marine equivalent to the Super Boomer).

Our thanks to them for supplying the rig for test.

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PEARCE-SIMPSON
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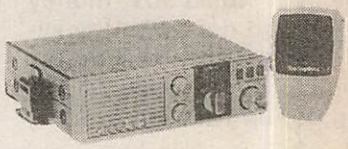
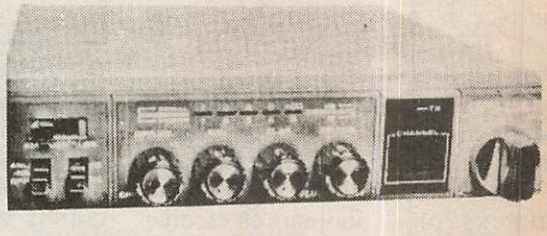


TX 472
ELECTROPHONE
HI-TECH JAPANESE 40 CH. UHF



BEARCAT 50XL
UNIDEN
10 CHANNEL 10 BAND HANDHELD SCANNER
See review CBA December

TOMCAT Mk II
Economy 40ch AM/SSB
PEARCE-SIMPSON CUB

FM 620 PHILIPS
AUSTRALIAN MADE
40 CH DELUXE UHF
See review in CBA December '85

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Queensland Scene

By ROD FEWSTER

Over the past few months several CBers asked me why I haven't retaliated against Don Stewart of Out West fame for saying poo-poo type things about me in his September/October 1986 column, and Sydney Scene's Steve Griffin for trying to tell me how to write my column way back in March last year.

The truth of the matter is, Steve Griffin's inconsequential comments were instantly forgotten and until the fact that I'd been mentioned in Don Stewart's column was brought to my attention, I hadn't even read it!!

Over the years people have bandied my name about in an uncomplimentary fashion plenty of times in CB Action, both in columns and in letters to the Editor, but replies from me are few and far between. The very writings of these people expose most of them as insignificant fools in the first instance. They don't need my assistance.

As far as I can recall, the only time I've even mentioned the existence of other CB Action columnists was when I made some tongue-in-cheek references to "bad language" back in December 1985, yet for some reason my writing style and subject matter gives rise to such strong emotions (Outrage? Shock? Horror? Shame? Jealousy?) that certain "scribes" feel compelled to poke the ferret up me in print.

Prior to this issue I've never fired an angry shot at a fellow journo.

Hopefully this will be the first and last time I feel obliged to do so.

I'd rather hang up my guns than watch the pages of CB Action degenerate into a slanging match between myself and a bunch of Johnny-Come-Latelies.

★ ★ ★

Steve Griffin tacitly suggested in the March 1986 Sydney Scene that I change both my writing style and subject matter, after saying that he'd been silly enough to read my column on a couple of occasions.

Hopefully he's grown out of his "silly" stage and hasn't succumbed to the temptation of reading Queensland Scene since.

Steve, when your literary talents have earned as much money for you as mine have for me, I'll heed your advice.

Until then, you march to the beat of your drum and I'll march to the beat of mine, OK?

★ ★ ★

Don Stewart accused me in the September/October 1986 issue of having a "Ned Kelly" mentality and of calling him a grass and a dobber.

Don, you either don't comprehend written English, deliberately misunderstand what you read, or you have a very short memory, the latter assuming that you, too, have been silly enough to read Queensland Scene occasionally in the past.

The comments in my July/August 1986 column were clearly aimed at ORGANISED pimping, PROFESSIONAL pimping, SLIMY pimping, by full-time self-appointed Good Buddy guardians of the spectrum!! Try reading the column again, Don, this time with your brain in gear!!

I clearly stated in the March 1986 issue that my bitch was not against the individual who was outraged enough by another operator's behaviour to complain to DOC but against the organised groups of pathetic social misfits whose primary purpose in life seems to be the removal from the spectrum of anyone who doesn't conform to their own nauseating Good Buddy parameters.

I have on numerous occasions stated in the pages of CB Action that I would be FIRST-IN-LINE to dob any scumbag I caught making hoax emergency calls or deliberately interfering with emergency traffic. Does that sound like I'm applying a "Ned Kelly" mentality across the board?

As for inferring that you're a grass and a dobber, Don, someone a lot smarter than I am put it in a nutshell thousands of years ago when he said "Only a guilty man sees his own image reflected in the Mirror of Accusation." Or, to put it in modern terms, "If the French Letter fits . . . pull it over your head!!"

Good Buddy!!

★ ★ ★

A few issues back I mentioned seeing a Radio Shack practice key and oscillator aboard a Japanese submarine in a war movie.

This key must be almost a compulsory prop in movie scenes depicting communications equipment.

Peter from Newcastle wrote telling me he's seen the same gear being used by GIs in a Korean war movie, and Athol from Perth reckons he's seen it aboard a flying saucer in a late-night black-and-white movie on TV.

Peter from Penrith told me of a good blooper. He reckons that in the TV mini-series "Cyclone Tracy" (set in 1974) a semi sported a current model forty-channel CB rig. Anyone else pick up on this?

★ ★ ★

Speaking of "Cyclone Tracy" . . . this movie credited amateur radio with first bringing news of the devastation of Darwin to the attention of the outside world.

Fibby-wibby!!

Regardless of how much the WIA, DOC,

● To Page 23

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● From Page 21

Queensland Scene

By ROD FEWSTER

and the amateur fraternity in general would like you to believe this, it just isn't so.

PIRATE operators were first by a country mile!!

The identity of one of these, known as "Ivan" at the time, still remains one of pirate radio's best-kept secrets.

The second, John, had a fairly high profile (even appeared on TV) and was thanked in writing for his assistance by the military.

★ ★ ★

Funny how those with an interest in making our hobby appear whiter-than-white distort the facts to suit themselves.

I'm not knocking amateur radio, but Tracy isn't the only instance of poetic licence I can recall.

When Argentina took over the Falklands, stories circulated about a "ham" who continued to transmit information for almost two weeks following the invasion.

The fact that he was operating out-of-band, using a modified CB on 27.770, was never mentioned.

Nor was the fact that the Brisbane operator with whom he had a regular sked on 27.770 relayed messages to the UK on 20 metres using a phony P29/MM call. (Probably a smart move under the circumstances).

★ ★ ★

My spies in Sydney tell me that the Viking Radio Club once again celebrated Australia Day by holding their annual "CB Olympics" complete with helical javelin throwing, magnetic base shotputting, etcetera, and apparently a good day was had by all.

Proves one thing. The Vikings weren't involved in The Great Australia Day Repeater Farting Festival.

★ ★ ★

Seeing as how next year is the big one, how about some of you progressive CB clubs doing your bit for Australia on January 26?

I don't mean getting sloshed while wearing your "Fourex is better than Foster's T-shirt and abusing anyone with a foreign accent on the call channel . . . you can do that anytime.

I mean do something to let the world know we're here, and that it's our two hundredth birthday.

Here's one idea to kick around.

If you have any members who are hams . . . great. If not . . . try to recruit a couple to lend a hand. (Not all hams think CBers are dickheads. Your local Amateur Radio Club is a good place to start looking).

Why not try to set up a list of scheduled legal "second operator" communications beforehand with the help of foreign hams so that some of your neighbors can have a few words with family members who are still "back in the old country", wherever it may be, or so that Aussies living overseas can have a bit of a chat with Mum and Dad? You could probably get a permit to set up a ham station in a park and have a picnic at the same time.

If you get fair dinkum about this, drop in and bend a few ears at your local chuck-over-the-fence suburban newspaper. They'll usually come good with a plug or two.

Go and hassle your local RI. You never know . . . he may just pitch in and help you with your project.

Start planning NOW. Make Australia Day 1988 a day to remember.

★ ★ ★

Anyone who thinks that being the first CB operator in Australia to be convicted of harassment under the RadCom Act is something to brag about is a sicko.

★ ★ ★

The two Brisbane "maverick" CBers mentioned in the December Queensland Scene have now both been charged with harassment and illegal/unlicensed operation and will have their day in court in a couple of months.

These two were widely touted among those with their bowels connected to their brains as being responsible for most of the trouble on UHF-CB.

Their removal from the spectrum resulted in virtually no reduction in the chook calls, animal impersonations, burps, farts, whistles, heavy breathing, microphone scratching, button-pushing, arguments and general disruptive behaviour which Brisbane CBers have come to accept as normal on 7/37.

In fact, I think it's gotten worse.

★ ★ ★

Who's the well-known Sydney UHFer and anti-WRC campaigner who, being unable to refute certain facts exposed in a recent Queensland Scene, has resorted to making vulgar on-air comments about my sex life in order to "get even?"

He's the same well-known Sydney UHFer and anti-WRC campaigner who'll need a proctologist to find his teeth if he keeps it up!!

Got the message?

Good Buddy!!

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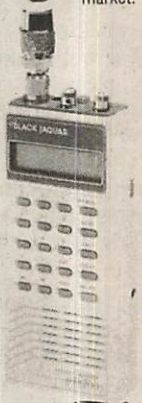

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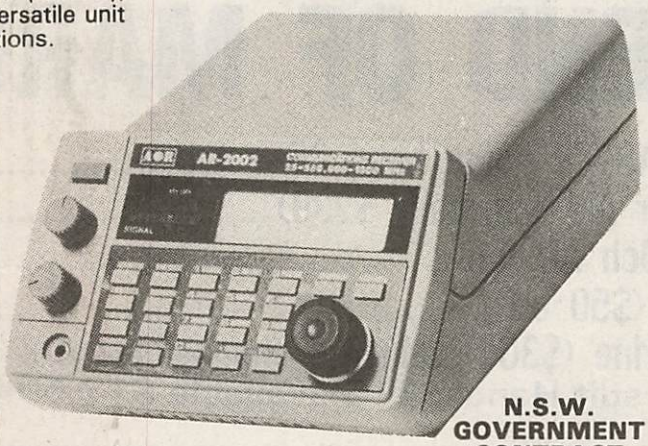

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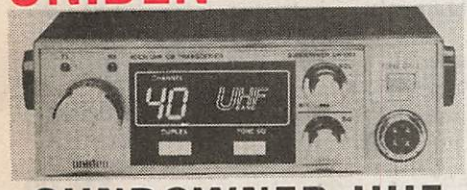

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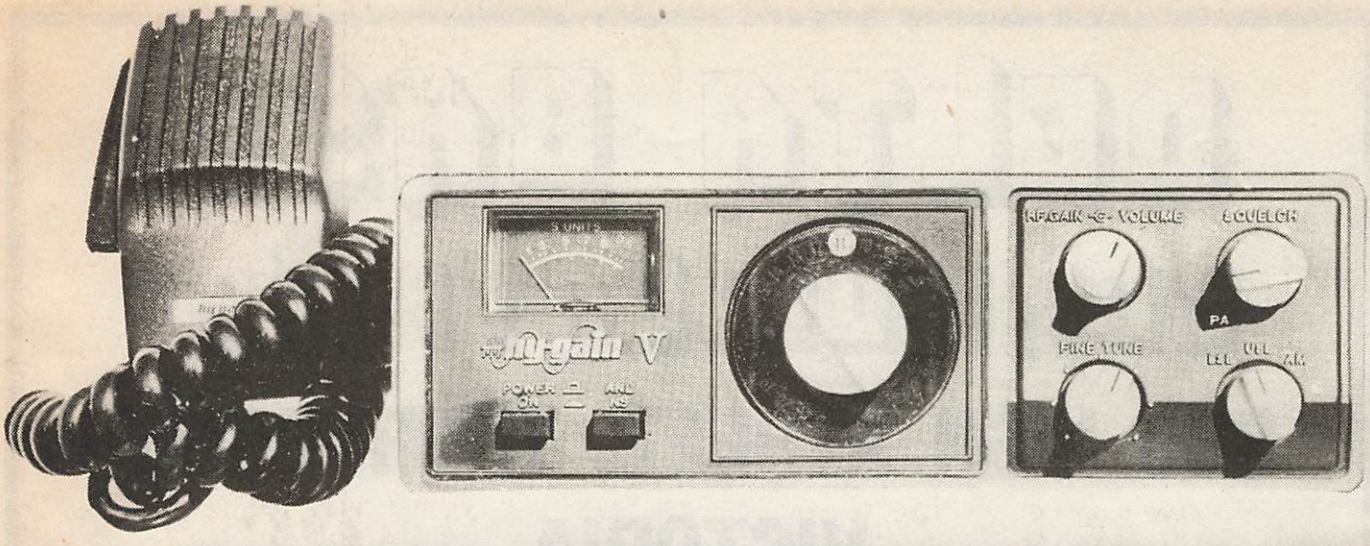

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

The CB ACTION team tell all! Their gear, memories, and pet loves and hates of CB radio . . .

ROD FEWSTER

First rig — An old Radio Shack AM, about as big as a Washington base station — valves and all, and 23 pairs of crystals which you could mix 'n' match for all sorts of funny frequencies! Then came a Regency 'Range-Gain', which cost a fortune — it was double sideband, suppressed carrier, which was the forerunner of modern SSB — no one had anything more than AM or CW in those days, even on the amateur bands.

Even when sideband did come along, for a long while it was still beyond the reach of the poverty-stricken average man like myself.

Current gear — I've got a few scattered around cars and home base. For UHF, Swatron 990s with selcall. HF, a Uniden Washington base station, PC-122 mobiles, and a PC-22 AM. Also, a Realistic 40 ch. AM handheld for use when I go bush.

Favorite gear — The best ever was my Palomar PTR-130K, which was 0-520 MHz continuous, AM-FM-SSB, only about four of that model ever came into the country.

Why CB radio? Even when I arrived in Australia in 1969, I was pretty much 'into' radio, although I was about the only one until 1973, and couldn't talk to anyone but myself, then suddenly I heard someone else on air, it was bloody marvellous. I just drifted into CB, I guess.

A memorable experience — Two come to mind. Back before legislation of CB, in 1972, the ass had just fallen out of the sunspot cycle and there wasn't a bit of skip to be heard. There was this Good Buddy in Hawaii, who I baited for some reason; by using different accents and languages I convinced him that I was hundreds of different operators around the world.

Over a three week period he must have spent hundreds of dollars sending QSL cards to fictional operators in the far-flung corners of the world. When I finally told him it was me all along, he threatened to sell his house and everything he owned, fly over here, find me and kill me!

More seriously, was when Cyclone Tracy flattened Darwin. CBers were still pirates, of course, but the first contact out of Darwin to the rest of Australia was on CB. Eventually a lot of pirates came on, relaying information and making long-distance phone calls at their own expense, and even a lot of amateurs joined us, working out-of-band to do so.

Best aspect of CB — That so many people, on CB, come out of their shell, people who would otherwise be so totally friendless for the rest of their lives.

Worst aspect — That DOC have allowed UHF CB to be annexed by commercial operators. I'm not saying they shouldn't be there, but they are allowed to ride roughshod over hobbyists, and get away with it. It's okay for commercials to abuse hobbyists, but if a hobbyist abuses a commercial operator he ends up in court. CB is Citizens Band, not Commercial Band.

GREG TOWELLS

First rig — A Realistic TRC-992 walkie-talkie, took about four thousand batteries to give about three watts, it only had channels 6, 14 and 11.

Current gear — In the car, a Sundowner UHF — it's cheap, but it works; a TX-565 resides in the car occasionally, when I'm not in the car it goes into the home. Also at home, an Electrophone TX-472. Also an IC-40 handheld, and scanners — Bearcat 100 XL, Realistic PRO-2020, and Yaesu FRG-965.

Favorite rig — Overall, the Yaesu 965 scanner. Best CB gear — I've still got it, the TX-472 and TX-565.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

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THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

Why CB radio? All the little yobs at school said they had these little walkie talkies you could talk to taxis and all that crap! I'd seen some of the American CB magazines, went over to Tandy and bought this handheld and used to climb up on top of the roof to get better range — this was pre-legislation, back in the mid-70s. I just sort of got into CB from there!

A memorable experience — A few years ago, out at Richmond (NSW), it was pretty quiet on air, and this beautiful female voice comes on air and starts talking to all the boys, about how lonely she is, and wants some company. So everyone gets on air, keeps her talking, and starts to track her down.

It takes a while, but eventually they've got a fix on her, and start homing in, she turns out to be at the old lagoon, cars and vans and everything are closing in on her. They can see her car, there's no escape, and she says 'Oh, there's one thing I'd better tell you', and her voice drops suddenly — 'I'm actually a bloke!'

All those macho heroes suddenly slow down. This guy had led them on a beaut, but everyone got together and had a few drinks and it was a great night.

Best aspect of CB — You can do almost anything with it.

Worst aspect — Firstly, all the yobbos and carrier droppers on the AM call channel. Secondly, the yobs who time the repeater out. Thirdly, repeaters with a ten-second time-out. Lastly, if you don't have any repeaters at all.

DAVID FLYNN

Firs rig — A Universe 23 ch. AM mobile. Then came a Contact brand AM/SSB, but the big move, the big split was buying an early FM-320 on UHF. I've still got a soft spot for FM-320s, just a weakness for 'first love' I suppose!

Current gear — Mostly UHF — a remote-mounted Sawtron 990 in the car (they're an excellent rig, and besides, no normal radio would fit into my 'lunchbox' Fiat X1/9!); TX-475 and IC-40 handhelds — I can't bear to part with either of them. At home, an Electrophone TX-4760S, in the matching base console — a very neat job indeed. On country trips, I add an Electrophone or Uniden AM/SSB to the car.

Favorite gear — God, here's another UHF rig! My favorite will always be the very first UHF CB handheld (although not a legal one), a modified Icom IC-4E, which is the 430 MHz ham unit upon which the IC-40 is based. Virtually no one had UHF handhelds at the time, let alone a 40 channel one, and the enormous range of Icom accessories — plus a few special receiving mods that other 4E owners would be familiar with — made it a rig I have fond memories of.

Why CB radio? I'd been watching CB for quite a while, mainly through the American magazines like Popular Electronics, S9 and such, and eventually found my way into the local scene, about 1975 or so. I'd heard of 'ham radio', but it was all too mysterious, too hard to get into. I just fell into CB and radio-communications, it seemed second nature to me.

A memorable experience — UHF again, but I'm not proud! In the very early days of 477 megs in Sydney, there weren't any repeaters of course, and almost all of the on-air activity was in the southern and northern suburbs. So living out in the west between two hills, as I did at the time, you didn't get to hear much, and a lot of the time it was only one side of the conversation. Anyway, a week after I'd bought the FM-320 I still hadn't heard a soul!

Then scanning around, I came across a conversation on ch. 14, a new station on top of a hill about 5 km away. I couldn't hear the guy he was talking to, but listened intently for about ten minutes. Wow, UHF- . . . what clarity, no noise, pretty much plain language and good conversation. I waited until he'd finished the over, put in my callsign, but no reply.

Another five minutes, try saying my callsign and advising I was 'on the side' . . . not a peep. Five minutes later, try 'break' and then 'breaker' . . . half an hour was gone by, I thought 'They just aren't going to talk to me', so feeling immensely lonely and rejected, I continued to scan up the band. The 320 locks onto ch. 15, and it's the same conversation!

It was also on 16, 17 and 18 — typical early FM-320! I found they were actually on ch. 16, and I could hear both of them once on the right channel. Put in a 'break', got called in, and never looked back!

Best aspect of CB — It can be so many things — a step into the technical world, the beginning of a career, safety and company on the road, low-cost business radio system, a social medium, a wonderful aid to the whole community, if utilised properly — the best thing about CB radio is its potential.

Worst aspect — That this potential has not been fully realised. We've done okay, considering the terrible lack of planning and foresight, but things could be better. What gets to me? Idiots who abuse the system and operators and get away with it. And people who put CB radio before their wife or family, who ignore their so-called loved ones for the sake of their mates on air or the local radio club — that is a terrible situation, it lacks all sense of balance of proportion.

DON STEWART

First rig — One of the GE model A units, AM/SSB mobile — I got that around June 1979, and it's still in the car.

Current gear — Wagner 510 AM/SSB base station, I've still got the GE mobile, and two FM-320s — one mobile, and one in the house through a 9 dB antenna.

Favorite rig — The Wagner 510. Hatadi bought out the Super Bengal Mk II base station, which was the same thing — very classy, and still raises eyebrows. Originally an 18 channel unit, it's been converted to 40 channels, and had crystal lattice filters installed to cut down on local splatter.

Why CB radio? In early 1979 I was driving back from Perth along the Old Coast Road and came across an accident, 50 miles from nowhere. A bloke had rolled his car a few times, fallen out of the car and had broken legs, broken arms, broken ribs — another chap was at the scene, and asked if I'd stay with the accident victim while he tried to find a telephone and call for help.

I spent an hour with the chap, while he was gurgling blood and coughing and moaning in pain. I thought — 'There's got to be a better way than this, trying to find help in the middle of the night in the middle of nowhere.

The chap died on the way to hospital, but I went ahead and got into CB from there.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 57

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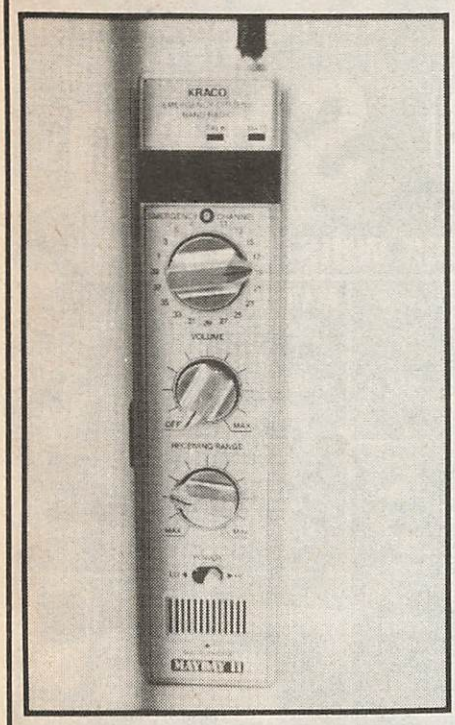
IG REPORT KRACO MAYDAY II
EMERGENCY RADIO



The 'dyed in the wool' CBer might call the Mayday 11 a "Clayton's CB" — the CB you have when you are not really having a CB . . . but we think that the name says it all. The Mayday 11 is designed primarily for the citizen who does not feel the need to have a permanent CB rig fitted to his vehicle, but would like the extra safety factor it gives should he — or she — fall upon hard times.

Mind you, it also makes a snazzy little handheld as well, and for the folk who like to indulge in pedestrian hobbies, it would make an ideal "two in one unit". One case immediately springs to mind, and that is offroading.

Most four-wheel drive vehicles have a 27 MHz CB fitted as a matter of course, and we have found that there are many times when some members of a group want to explore a particular area on foot, and would still like the convenience of keeping in touch with home base. The Mayday 11 is ideal for this application, because it will run on batteries as well as from the vehicle power source.

Compared with a conventional mobile AM CB, the only concessions that seem to have been made are the absence of any type of S/RF meter — not even a bar LED, and the antenna. The antenna supplied with the unit is a flexible, helically-wound device, 23 centimetres in length. This antenna will attach to either the magnetic base for mounting on the car roof, or will screw directly into the top panel of the Mayday 11 to make the unit truly portable.

The connector on the top panel is not what he would call a standard type, and this means that modification would be necessary to utilise a more conventional type of antenna. However, Kraco have given you the wherewithall to overcome this problem — they can supply an adaptor which will enable you to plug a standard CB antenna directly into the Mayday 11.

While the stubby antenna supplied is very convenient, it is a sad fact of life that to miniaturise a 27 MHz antenna to these dimensions means a marked drop-off in performance, but then we do not believe that the Mayday 11 was really designed for long distance communications. Most genuine "on the road" contacts between vehicles are made only after visual contact has been established, and a mutual reporting of road conditions — amongst other things — takes place. The shorter range of the miniature antenna would only come into play if you were immobilised on a little travelled section of the Queen's highways and byways, whereupon you would be much more reliant on favorable skip conditions — but, accept the Mayday 11 for what it is, a CB for those who don't want to go the whole hog — after all, it's official designation is an "emergency citizens' band radio".

It is obvious that Kraco has given a lot of thought to the design and layout of the Mayday 11. The front panel is as comprehensive as most AM mobiles, except for the omission of the S/RF meter. On the front panel, beginning at the top you will find: two LEDs indication transmit mode, and battery condition; a large red LED channel indicator; channel selector knob, with channel 9 clearly marked; on/off-/volume control; a control marked 'receiving range', which we think correlates to a sqelch control; a hi/lo power selector, and finally, the inbuilt microphone. The speaker and push-to-talk bar are found on the left hand side panel while the right hand side panel houses the battery compartment. It may be as well to mention here that this little beastie requires nine AA dry cell or nicad batteries to supply the sparks necessary for operation, and the lovely lady who controls the company battery supply cracked it for a king size sad when we drew enough batteries to run this unit, plus the GX 286 marine handheld reviewed elsewhere. Little does she know that after the tests, the batteries disappear into the anklebiter belongum editor's radio-controlled minature offroad race car. Only joking Mr Keating . . . true dinks!

As supplied, our unit came with a vinyl carrying case for portable operation, a cigarette lighter power cord, magnetic base and antenna cable, and a strong plastic carry case which houses the whole shebang. Incidentally, the cigarette lighter power adaptor also doubles as a charger for recharging the nicad batteries.

The handbook supplied was aimed at the US market, giving all the necessary instructions on how to obtain an FCC licence, and how to access channel 19, the American highway channel. Australian users should substitute channel 8 as the highway channel, and obtain their licence from DOC.

The Mayday 11 is a well designed, well put together unit, and would be ideal for the purpose for which it is promoted — an emergency CB radio, but as pointed out, does have other merits which deserve consideration, Kraco also has another unit similar to this one, but it does not give you the advantage of going portable — it is designed for in car operation only.

Our thanks to Kraco for supplying the units for review.

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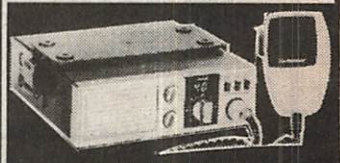

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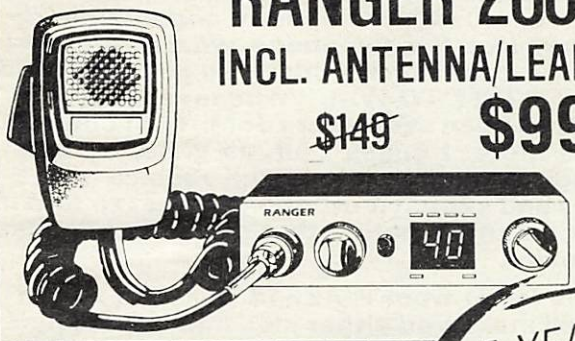

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OUT WEST

By DON STEWART

Things are looking up — I have three letters to comment on this time. The first came from Peter R of Frenchs Forrest in NSW. Being new to CB and about to drive to Perth for the America's Cup, he wanted a bit of an intro' to WA (I hope he is a Dennis Conner fan or he might feel that the trip was wasted).

Sorry Peter, I intended writing to you before you left home to tell you to preserve your sanity by switching your set off before crossing the Darling Range and descending on Perth. As usual, things got away from me and I found myself bashing the typewriter and trying to beat the deadline for this lot while you sat, no doubt crying into your beer, watching Dennis show the Kooka' mob how to sail a boat.

You will have found by now that there are a lot of good CBers in Perth, but you have to be patient and sort them out from the idiot horde.

I hope you had a great trip and made lots of contacts.

★ ★ ★

Next was a letter from WAC657 John (Capricorn 1) of Paraburdoo W.A. who said:

"While on holiday in Broome last year it became apparent that there is something drastically wrong with CBers — I spent three enjoyable weeks at Bali-Hi Caravan Park and managed only two contacts, even though I put out calls on average 8 to 10 times a day.

I was parked next to the only exit/entry so I saw most of what came in and out of the park and I did a rough survey of vehicles with obvious CB antennas fitted. The result was that approximately 60% of the cars I spotted had them fitted — the question is "WHAT THE HECK DO ALL THOSE PEOPLE DO WITH WHAT SHOULD BE CONNECTED TO THE OTHER END OF THE ANTENNA CABLE??

To all those people with hopefully a workable transceiver on the end "USE IT TO COMMUNICATE", even when you're not at home. Believe it or not when you are on holiday, or just travelling, you will find that people speak ENGLISH, or more importantly, AUSSIE.

I came to some conclusions as to why I could not make more than two contacts:

1. *There was nothing on the end of the antenna cable.*
2. *The antenna was fitted as standard when the vehicle was bought and the owner hasn't found out what it's for.*
3. *There is a world shortage of mikes, or all the PTT switches are R/S.*
4. *CBers will only talk to people they know.*
5. *CBers think that Broome is such a nice place all the WA RIs live there.*
6. *You should only use CB in an emergency.*
7. *They won't use the radio because their mother told them not to talk to strangers.*
8. *The regulations say you must not swear on air and some people can not talk without swearing, so they don't get on the CB.*

Come on CBers, let's communicate, use the service, talk to anybody and everybody, it's not like the telephone where the more you use it the more it costs, so get on air and "SAY G'DAY TO W.A." whenever you can."

It's all been said before John, but I couldn't agree more. I guess I am as guilty as most though — I get sick of the rubbish sometimes and switch it off, then I forget to turn it back on until I notice that everything is just too quiet.

★ ★ ★

The letter from WAZ614 Ross in Fremantle will make you either love him or hate him. Ross said he was stirred to write by a recent piece in QUEENSLAND Scene and he went on:

"The trouble seems to stem from a fairly large group of CBers who consider channel 35 as a call channel. Legal or not, they still consider it to be a call channel.

While having a conversation on the said channel with a friend not too far from my QTH, we were repeatedly told to get off the call channel, not only from within Perth, but also from SA and Queensland as well. Frantic efforts on my part to try and educate these non-believers on the facts concerning channel 35 were all in vain.

After a quick call to DOC to get the facts about this problem, I returned to the radio to present the truth and, as you can guess, I still couldn't make the poor beggars understand.

Well, all I can say is that I will continue to use channel 35 as it is intended for, chit chat, regardless of what the good buddies, wimps and wankers have to say. Even idle threats won't stop me, so if you hear me having a conversation on channel 35 don't tell me to get off the call channel — ring DOC and find out the truth."

Sorry Ross, but I can't agree with you. What the hell does it matter whether it is a legal call channel or not? Personally I couldn't care less, but it seems pretty obvious that a lot of CBers want to use channel 35 as a skip call channel, so why not just move to another channel and let them go for it — unless you derive some perverse satisfaction from being able to upset someone "legally".

Just to set the record straight, the law says that deliberate interference with any radio transmission is an offence — and this

includes interfering with a station making a call on channel 35.

Channel 16 may be the legal call channel, but the law does not say that I must make my calls only on that channel — I am legally entitled to call on any channel that is not in use and if you then keep interrupting to tell me that I am not legal, or start a conversation over the top of me, then you commit an offence.

Of course, if you are holding a conversation on channel 35 and someone keeps telling you to get off the call channel, they are in the wrong. They should wait until you finish, or put in a police breaker and ask you to move to another channel because somebody is waiting for them to call on 35.

CB could be so much nicer with just a little bit more co-operation.

★ ★ ★

Channels 7 and 16 in the old 18 channel arrangement — are they legal? Yes, the argument is still on.

At time of writing (early Feb.) the word from DOC in WA is that nothing has changed since I last wrote on this topic —

"Frequencies 27.095 MHz and 27.195 MHz may continue to be used until otherwise advised, though they are noted for withdrawal." — Of course you must have a licensed 18 channel set to do it legally.

I think, and you probably do also, that they should be banned right now to cut out untraceable local splatter, but that is how the law stands.

Please, no more arguments!

★ ★ ★

When I wrote last time on the DOC proposal to ban 27 MHz AM, I was shooting from the hip and under deadline pressure, but, having had time to think about it and to consider ideas submitted by others, I am now prepared to go along with it — PROVIDED:

1. SSB remains as at present.
2. AM is phased out over a long period, as proposed, and
3. FM becomes legal as a replacement immediately the first available sets can pass type approval.

This way buyers of new gear could get straight into FM and it could slowly take the place of AM, but present AM users could wear out their gear over the next 20 years.

★ ★ ★

A very brief bit this time, but the deadline is about to drop on me. Hey, did you notice something? Not a word about UHF — how about a cheer for Don.

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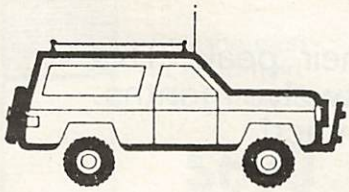

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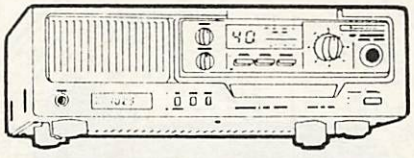

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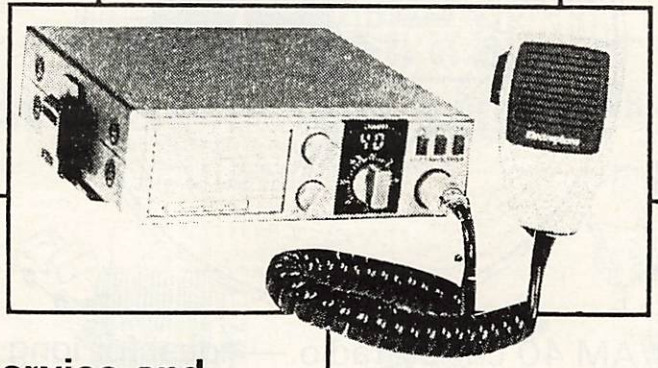

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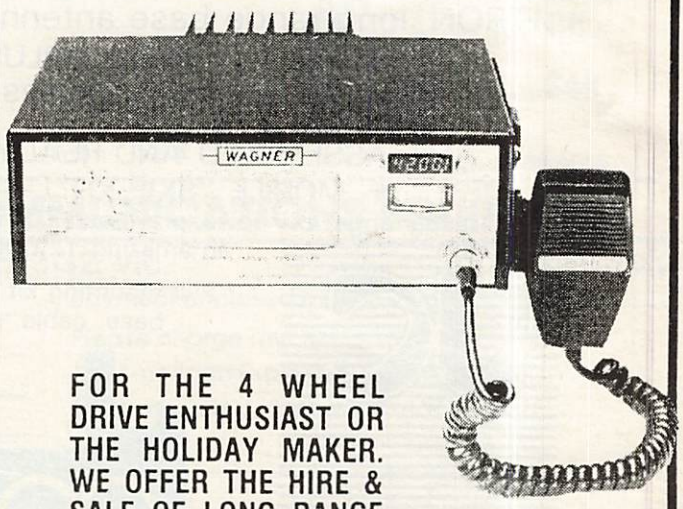

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SYDNEY SCENE

By STEVE GRIFFIN

While listening around the channels recently I came across a person who has recently moved down here from Fewster territory. It seems the YL's were not impressed with the "I've been mentioned regularly in the Queensland Scene" line, because they told him to get lost, in a few choice words. I'm sure you read this column too MC44, or at least you said you did, so I thought I would take this opportunity to welcome you to Australia and write a few lines to let your mate up in the old country know how you're getting along, I'm sure he'll have a good laugh.

★ ★ ★

Another subject I've been dying to sink my teeth into is the new "withdraw the AM mode" garbage. Sure, DOC wants to withdraw AM but, can they? Will they? OK fair enough, they can stop the import of AM type radios as this is already on the cards, but honestly, how long do you think it will take!!!

I guarantee the complete transformation of AM users will not be seen in our lifetime ... for example how many radios do you think are in this country? I've known people to put their radios in the cupboard for years at a time, only to bring them out and use them again. This same sort of thing happens all over Australia.

People are talking FM as a replacement. This is because the importers already know that the major manufacturers make 27MHz FM radios for a lot of companies in other parts of the world.

A lot of people know that it will be released here soon, but, nobody will admit to it.

It's about time someone told you all that FM is great — take it from someone who knows. If you have a receiver that is capable of FM, have a listen around, sooner or later you will hear people who already use it. Their equipment may not be approved models but at least they use them sensibly. I haven't heard anybody on FM talk about linears or extra channels, playing music or ratbagging. It honestly reminds me of the good old pirate days, when you could have a decent conversation with very few interruptions.

A number of people are obviously misled about FM — perhaps they haven't had enough experience and just listen to others too much. Some say that there is no skip, some say it doesn't get out as far. What a lot of bull! In most cases FM increases your range simply because you can still under-than likely be all people who use FM would stick to it, voluntarily!

One more thing . . . there is already a FM CB club — just look in the Club Register under FM . . . what more can I say?

★ ★ ★

I promised I would mention the 49er's Club in this issue so here it is. Most people think that the 49er's are all that age. Wrong! This club uses 49. 49 what you say? Well it could be anything. Nice bunch of people though — they will go out of their way to help anybody.

Actually, come to think of it a couple of members could be 49, isn't that right Brenda? Only kidding!

Drop in and say "G'day" to them, if you can find 'em.

Looks like we have a new marine emergency base starting up on the Central Coast. Good ol' Jack from Toukley is taking to the marine frequencies as well. We all know that Jack has been running a voluntary emergency base for some time and has helped with calls ranging from broken down vehicles to bush fires. Jack doesn't get many pats on the back, but the Gosford police know how helpful he can be. It is the same with the various boating groups. Apparently one of the bigger boat clubs is arranging to provide Jack with the much needed finance, in order for him to obtain the equipment he needs.

The clubs are overwhelmed by Jack's enthusiasm, and most members are well aware of his reputation.

There's no doubt about it Jack, you're alright in our books. Keep up the good work.

★ ★ ★

Before I forget; A little message has landed on my desk from our favorite technician, it's something short and sweet addressed to all the Philips FM620 owners out there. Apparently it is possible to have your microphone do the channel changing in the same way as the old FM320. A number of people, both on and off the air have asked me about this in the past and I wasn't sure. We managed to get a hold of one to play with and discovered a few interesting points, but for now we can't go into it, but watch this space.

★ ★ ★

That's it for this issue — keep those letters coming and I'll keep writing. The address is P O Box 40, Gladesville, NSW 2111.

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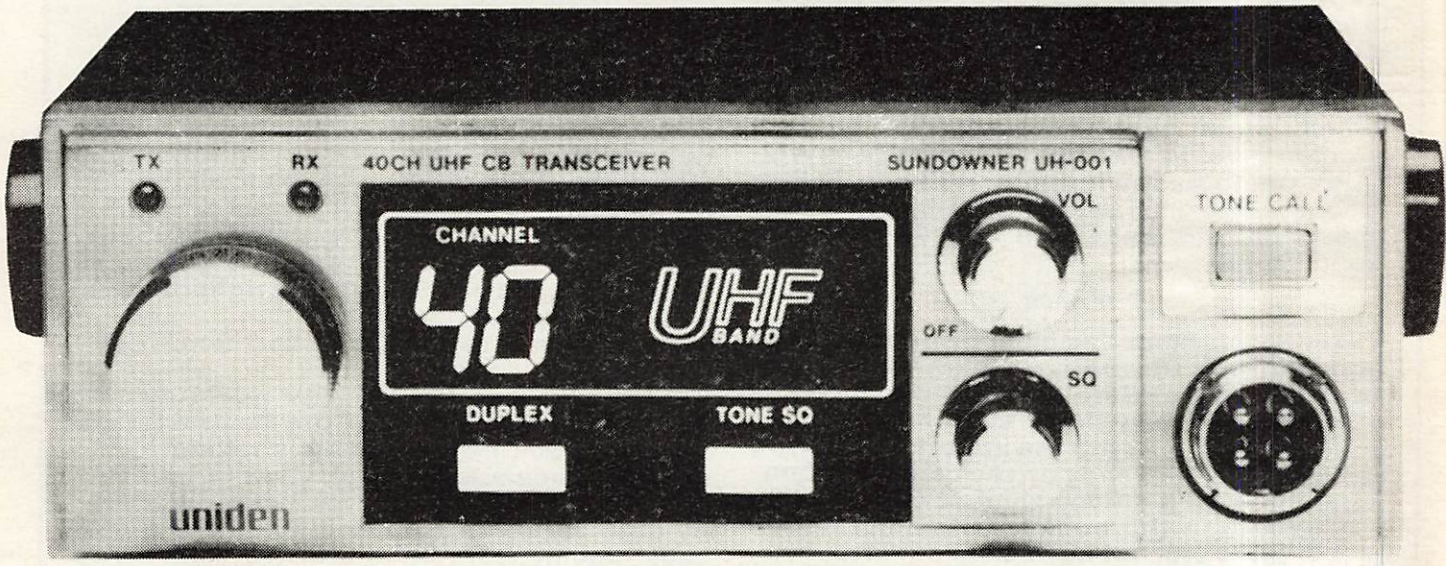

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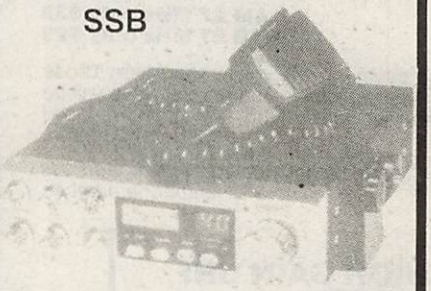

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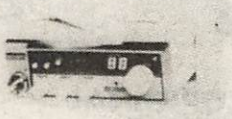

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Promoting your CB Club

By DAVID FLYNN

Have you ever heard the expression "Winking at a pretty girl in the dark"? It's a good way of saying **"You know what you're doing, but no-one else does."**

Unfortunately, it can be easily applied to many radio clubs. Not that there's anything wrong with keeping a low profile, while being — as one oil company would put it — a "quiet achiever".

But publicity isn't just a matter of 'hype' or of beating the drum. A bit of awareness of your efforts, a way of reaching potential members, or helping the general public to realise that CBers aren't just a "bunch of ratbags" — for these reasons at least, more and more radio clubs (amateur, as well as CB) are becoming more conscious of publicity and the role it has to play.

Before going any further, please allow me to point out that this article is **not** the definitive work on publicity for radio clubs. That inch-thick volume is so far unwritten, and will probably remain so.

This is simply a brief guide to helping your club develop — if it so desires — a higher profile in the local community. It is drawn from practical experience "in the field" — in fact, the guidelines mentioned here apply equally towards any club or organisation, not just CB radio groups.

The primary focus of this article concerns itself with publicity through local (suburban) newspapers. As most radio clubs have a 'local' orientation, the suburban newspaper is ideally suited to their needs. It covers your "territory", with free distribution to all homes in the area — reaching CBers and non-hobbyists alike.

The important thing to remember is that your local paper makes its living from concerning itself with **local** activities — a category into which your club should easily fit. Don't expect the major daily newspapers to be interested in what you're doing. They might give it some thought, if you do something which affects the entire city, but even then you can't count on it.

The same can be said for radio and TV stations, unless — as before — it is **very** newsworthy. I once saw a letter from one club who were convinced that a total of thirty competitors at their ten-pin bowling meet would "guarantee TV coverage". Talk about delusions — perhaps they meant the chap with his brother's ½-inch VHS porta-pack . . .

Publicity — Why Bother?

Well, if you consider this to be a valid question, then skip this article and be content with counting the number of full stops on each odd-numbered page, or something equally useless.

The Macquarie Dictionary defines "publicity" as "open to general observation or knowledge". And that about says it all.

It's telling others — the outside world — about some of the many good aspects of CB, about what **your** club is doing.

There are of course many advantages in publicity. So let's begin with the three broad groups that this publicity will reach, which concerns a radio club.

1. The General Public

This group, on the whole, has little or no interest in our hobby. Publicity serves to make them more aware of what CB is really all about, and can directly promote the growth of our hobby. Perhaps some of them have had a bad experience with radio — TVI is a common one, or just the general reputation of CB radio, the "cowboy image" (as one newspaper summed it up).

2. Local CBers

There are sure to be many CBers in the local area who are not club members. Not all of them may be "into" clubs, but there are a lot you just cannot reach in the first place. Maybe they don't get on air very often. Perhaps they're newcomers to CB, or to the neighborhood. For these people, the local newspaper is the most efficient way and sometimes the only way to get the message across.

The obvious benefit here is increased membership for your club. New members, new ideas and directions, more people to participate and help things get done.

But beyond this, publicity will enhance the reputation of your club, making non-members think: "Here is a club that's going places, a club that's doing something". When the club is mentioned on air, these people remember the publicity, and reinforces the thought that this is an active and worthwhile club.

3. Your Own Members

This "higher regard" in which the club is held is also beneficial to your own members. Publicity makes them feel proud to belong, a feeling which grows when local operators comment on and admire the work of the club on-air. To be known as a member of **that** club can be reward in itself.

The Local Newspaper

You are already familiar with your suburban newspaper — that's the one which arrives free in your letterbox or on your front lawn each week. If you live in a country town, you may have a very comprehensive local paper, which can be daily in some larger towns. In urban areas, it is quite common to have two or three local papers each week.

The staff of most suburban papers is small, often two or three journalists, including the editor. All of your club's publicity will probably be handled by one of these journos, who can become your "contact" at the paper.

If you are lucky, this person will bgin to take an active interest in your club. This can make a great deal of difference to your "press", transforming a simple news release into a half-page story, if the topic catches the journalist's eye.

Once you have located the office of the local paper, pay them a visit with your first publicity release, or simply a letter of introduction from the club.

Find out when the deadlines are, when they prefer to have "copy" (submitted written material) by. Ask if they have staff photographers; if they'll accept your own photos; what they will be looking for.

What To Submit

Almost anything of interest is potential publicity material. Not just special events, but regular occurrences. Anything to do with the club, or its individual members, may be valid for local news.

There are three common types

of publicity release, each angled towards different types of press coverage.

A community listing or "What's On" column can be used to note forthcoming meetings and events.

For something of minor interest, a small press release can be used almost anywhere in the paper, and helps keep your club in the public eye between larger events.

Something **very** special is highlighted in a news feature, which plays a major role in local press when the "local angle" is prominent.

Giving notice of monthly meetings is a good habit to develop. Perhaps the local paper has a "Community Noticeboard" column, or similar, where day-to-day events and meetings are listed. This is an ideal place to advertise your meetings, each and every month (or however often they are held).

The release for this purpose should be crisp, clear and to the point. Something like:

"The Northern Hills CB Radio Club will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, March 17th. The venue is the Northern Hills Community Centre, 22 First Avenue, Northern Hills. The meeting will commence at 8pm, and visitors are welcome. Offstreet parking is provided. Refreshments will be available after the meeting. Contact the Publicity Officer, Roger Duck, ph 73 7373 (AH)."

Now, much more basic than that and you could be accused of being secretive! The name and contact number are not essential, but you will be surprised how many calls you will receive from local enthusiasts and visitors, before and after the meeting.

Don't forget to mention what time the meeting starts, and always use those magic words: "VISITORS WELCOME". You would be startled to find out how many people think that club meetings are for members only, or the personal guests of members.

If you have refreshments, offstreet parking (attractive to members and visitors due to lessened risk of theft), or any other "attractions", mention them — you're trying to attract people to the meeting, and every little bit helps.

In the end, the release might be "trimmed" by the newspaper before it appears in print, but always include these "extras" anyway.

Even though the meetings are a regular occurrence, send a separate press release every time.

If you have a special attraction at the meeting — a guest speaker, video-tape presentation or even a club birthday celebration — then make the most of it in your releases. This can make the difference between a small listing and a larger item highlighting the meeting.

Don't forget a little trick-of-the-trade called "follow-up". This is an additional publicity "grab", on the basis of an earlier release. You had a guest speaker at the last meeting? Then send a release detailing how enjoyable and informative it was. The club was involved in helping with a car rally? Tell of anything unusual or exciting that was involved. Or, how may students of your club's ham radio licence course passed the DOC exam and obtained their licence.

Most groups totally neglect follow-up, ignoring the obvious fact that it makes every event worth twice as much for PR value.

A great time for follow-up publicity is after the Annual General Meeting. Mention the newly-elected Executive Committee. Perhaps include a few interesting extracts from the out-going President's report — about how successful the club was during the past year, and so on.

One of the most reliable sources of PR is the club-related community effort. Communications for a car rally or fun-run, raising funds for charity, or anything else that links radio with the local community.

In official events, where a letter of thanks may be received from the organisers to the club, you have classic follow-up. Use a press release to tell the people what a success the fun-run was, and how the club's CB network helped. Quote from the letter of thanks, with "Fun-run organiser Mr Bill Bloggs said . . ."

Sources of publcity are unlimited. If there is any obvious omission here, it is only because you've got to draw the line somewhere.

The Publicity Officer

Someone's got to do the work!

I tend to see a Public Relations Officer and Publicity Officer as different jobs. The PR Officer must actively "relate" to the public, which could include representing the club at functions and gatherings of other clubs and the general masses.

A Publicity Officer is a set task of generating publicity, with releases and so forth. Look for someone with a good command of English, hopefully with access to a typewriter.

It is a very responsible position, with ability to adhere to deadlines (those of the paper) a major desire.

Deadlines can be a real headache, but must be taken into consideration when prepring any release — as of course will the paper's release date. No sense in giving people a month's notice of a meeting, they'll likely forget it as time draws closer.

But don't cut it too fine . . . some people do plan their nights, so give them time to fit the meeting into their schedule.

About a week before the meeting is good enough for most.

A safe margin for most weekly papers is to have your release arrive a week before publication date.

As you want to give readers a week's notice of activities, this means preparing your release almost two weeks before the event itself.

With due notice of monthly meetings and a few other releases on different topics, the Publicity Officer can expect to be working on a release every two or three weeks. This is why reliability and forward-thinking are assets to Publicity Officers the world over.

A club's officer should try and use a diary or some method of planning for these releases. And it isn't just that person's task to realise potential publicity. Every member should be asking: "Would this make a good item for the local paper?" But keep the generation and co-ordination of releases under control of the publicity officer.

The Publicity Release

A well written release is a Godsend for most journos. It supplies the details, a few catchy phrases and helps put the entire plan into perspective. In many cases, a good release will be printed unchanged. So how do you write a good release?

The first job is to supply all the facts, even in a point-by-point form as a very last resort. At some stage the release will be re-written by the journo anyway. Make sure the release is typed, not hand-written. A telephone call to the paper never takes the place of a written release — only call if you've an initial enquiry or a late change to the release.

Many people send a covering note with the release, this is a brief

letter which contains useful into not in the release itself — contact names and business hour 'phone numbers etc, for the journo's reference. The proper place for these is with the press release itself, not on a covering note — to the jouro, this is simply another piece of paper to clutter up his desk, and most discard these notes once read. Make the journo's job as easy as possible.

Professionalism is always a nice touch. Develop a "news release" letterhead. It does not have to be anything special, just clean photocopied sheets with "PUBLICITY RELEASE" at the top and a one-inch margin rule on each side of the page. The typed text should be double-spaced between rules, with a line spacing of 1½ or 2 in place in of the usual one.

If you read any item in the local paper you will find it is broken up into many paragraphs, each containing no more than a couple of sentences. Try using this format for your release — it looks more appealing, and for journos is easier to read and edit.

In writing the release itself, there are a few common-sense rules, and endless helpful hints. Critical observation of items in your local paper, combined with practice in writing press releases (even mock-up ones), will develop your technique.

There are numerous books on the topic of publicity, all waiting at the local public library. These are listed under the Dewey decimal classication of 659-2.

Essential Pointers

★ Start by writing a 'draft' release. Have all the facts at hand. Analyse what you want to convey to the reader: the challenge of co-ordinating rally communications; the many benefits of the club's new UHF repeater.

★ Aim to write more than you need. It is easier to trim it down later, but — for now — get it all down on paper. This will help you judge which parts of the item are the most interesting, and will re-shape the final release to a better format.

★ Mention the local area where your club is based or where the activity is taking place by name. This should be done in the first few lines. It is the key to the relevance of your release to the local newspaper and its readers.

★ Announce when, where, why and how the event will take place, as early as possible in the release.

★ Keep sentences short and to the point. Give frequent paragraph breaks, and make each new paragraph convey a new or different aspect of the release. Keep each paragraph down to two or three sentences, but no more.

★ Announce who you are and what you are about. Do this every release, no matter how well known you think you are.

★ Find a "hook". Most important — something that clearly indicates what the release is really all about. Get it into your heading if possible, or at least into the first line or two.

★ Use quotes in your release. Don't just feed the journo a page of notes. A quote, when used in the paper, gives the appearance that the President or Secretary of the club was interviewed, and is a great way to convey the club's opinions or viewpoint on any matter.

★ Use key words and catch phrases. There are certain special words that appeal to journos on local papers, probably because they are easily understood by every reader. Some, if used correctly, will catch the eye and ensure that your message gets across. I have found that "network" (as in "radio network") is a real winner; "link", in the same context; and like it or not, "ham radio" is more acceptable and understood than "amateur radio".

★ Avoid repetition of words or phrases. Don't use the same words too often, or too close together. Substitute "system" for "network", "enthusiast" for "hobbyist", "communications" for "radio". If you get stuck, buy a Thesaurus — available from your local bookstore or newsagent, and well worth the price.

★ Don't use jargon. Remember, you are trying to reach the general public, who know nothing about radio. If you don't cut the jargon from your release, be sure the editor will — along with the rest of your release, in many cases!

If you can't avoid jargon, at least explain if: "UHF FM handhelds" might be better understood as "portable stations" or even the dreaded "walkie-talkies".

★ Don't forget to plug the club! When you've explained what you are doing as concisely as possible, add a few lines about the club — what it is about. Mention the date, time and location of the next meeting, invite interested readers to pay a visit. It may not be printed every time, but it is a good habit to form.

★ Provide a contact address. Someone who reads the item in the paper may want more information, especially if the paper doesn't print the details of your next meeting, or if the person can't attend that meeting. Give the club's address, and if possible a telephone number of someone who can easily be contacted (preferably, but not always, the publicity officer).

★ Add a special contact for the newspaper. Include a name and telephone number (business hours, if you can) that the journo can use if he wants to build upon or follow up the release. Make this separate from the text of the release — at the very bottom of the page, perhaps — but not on a separate covering page. If the paper has no fast and reliable way of contacting you, you could be denying them the chance to make more of your release.

★ Always address your release to "The Editor". Although you may only deal with a particular journalist, don't address releases to this person unless asked to. Large suburban newspaper groups have a habit of transferring journos from paper to paper, to increase their experience. Your personally-addressed release might follow the journo to his new post, Hand-delivery is always the safest way, of course, and establishes an important personal relationship.

★ If it doesn't appear, don't panic. There may not have been room for your item, it might appear next week (if it is not too late). If it appears and has been altered, learn from the experience. Make a note of how it was changed) what parts are missing, why do you think they were cut out? How was the release re-phrased and re-written? Use what you learn in your next release.

★ Make the heading relevant. Left this one a bit late, haven't I? Remember that the average reader doesn't "turn off" at the mention of "radio" in a headline. They are all pretty much indifferent to it. What they do need, however, is something to catch their interest, even if only briefly — this, again, is called a "hook". Headlines with a good hook include "Radio Club Acts In Emergency", or "Radio Hams Link With England".

Using Photographs

A photo brightens up any release, making it stand out from the columns of other information in

the paper (and the stack of other releases on the journo's desk). Most local papers have a staff photographer, who can be arranged to shoot something for your release if the paper desires. There is no cost to you, and you know that it will be a professional job.

If you can supply photographs of acceptable quality with your release, however, all the better — most papers will gladly use them.

Photos must be black and white, of good size and quality. As it can be hard to locate blck and white photo developing agencies these days, think ahead and allow adequate time for processing — same-day black and white services aren't all that common.

For film stock, I recommend Kodak Tri-X Pan, Ilford FP4 or similar.

Avoid the "flat look" — add depth to photos by using the right background and setting up items in the field of view. The photo **has** to illustrate something, **must** say something — otherwise it is totally useless. Look at the shots in your local paper — what do they say, how has it been framed, what makes it look good?

Photos are really best left to someone who knows what they are doing. Just owning a camera isn't nearly good enough. You will waste a lot of money on film and processing if you approach it carelessly, and end up with nothing.

Some groups prefer to find someone in the club with good photographic skills, and appoint him/her as "assistant publicity officer".

To avoid being caught without a suitable photo, try building up a photographic "portfolio", with shots from various club events and activities, each illustrating a different aspect of the club and of radio. By running off copies as required, you can always supply the right photo with your release.

Other Avenues

If you've a local radio station — either commercial or community-run — approach them and enquire if they've any "community announcements" section in which your club could publicise meetings, etc.

Make an attractive general info sheet on the club, and see if the local library has a noticeboard you can display it on. Try the local radio-electronics shops — Dick Smith, Tandy, and your own CB store — and see if they too can display it.

Another form of publicity, very direct and effective, is the letterbox drop. It is rarely used by radio clubs, taking a bit more time and effort than any other method, but is perfect for recruiting new members. Teamed up with a "Radio Club Seeks Members" press release in the local paper, it is a total membership drive that reaches CBers almost as well as on-air nets — sometimes even better.

The idea is to have prepared a large number of well-designed leaflets, printed or photocopied (again, it must look clean and professional) which inform the reader about your club. Angle it towards the CBer — try to convince the CB enthusiast who will read it, that your club is just the place for him.

It must be easily read, and well laid-out. Standard size A4 paper is adequate, and it can be addressed "To The CBer".

Then, each club member is given a few dozen leaflets and drops them into the letter-box of any CBers house in his area. Most of us know where our fellow local CBers live, so it's not very difficutl. You can even leave one on the windscreen of mobiles in shopping centre parking lots, for example.

This is not illegal, and — like newspaper publicity — is certain to get CBers talking about your club around the channels.

It is best not to cover the whole district at one time — saturation publicity has little staying power.

Instead, allocate each member to do a different part of the suburb each week, perhaps over a three-week period.

Then, you'll find one CBer asking another if he "got one of those leaflets from the radio club" in his letter-box. The chap replies he hasn't, and so his friend probably will read it to him, word for word, on air! That's cheap advertising!

Rounding Off

When the local paper runs one of your items, don't forget to ring and thank the journo for the effort. No-one ever seems to bother with this — strange, as it is a small consideration that never goes astray.

The last word is that there is no last word. Every group has its own techniques, "tricks of the trade" learned along the way.

Any club, no matter how old or young it may be, can benefit from good publicity technique. If you are starting a radio club, then "launch" it with PR and keep the effort going.

Whether you use publicity to increase your public profile or attract new members, it remains something that only a few radio clubs have discovered or harnessed effectively.

How about you club having a go?

SAME PRESS RELEASE

FUN RUN

This year's Northern Hills Fun Run should run smooth indeed, thanks to the efforts of the Northern Hills CB Radio Club.

Communications for the event, to be held Sunday March 22nd, will be co-ordinated by the club, a group of local CB radio enthusiasts who are "ready to go", said club President Charlie Bravo.

"Last year's Fun Run was a tremendous success, with 300 entrants," said Mr Bravo, "but the organisers tell us they had trouble relaying information without two-way radio facilities."

So the Fun Run Committee Chairman Bill Bloggs asked the Northern Hills Radio Club to help. Using a network of over a dozen portable CB radios, linked through a "base station" in the organisers' caravan, club members will pass progress reports, requests for medical attention and general information along the route.

"CB radio is ideal for uses like this" says Mr Bravo, "and we are all looking forward to the Fun Run a great deal". The club has also entered a four-man team into the event, who will use a walkie-talkie to keep in touch with their on-air friends."

A final briefing-night for the exercise will be held during the club's next meeting, on Tuesday March 17th. The venue is the Northern Hills Community Centre, 22 First Avenue, Northern Hills. It will commence at 8pm and visitors are welcome.

Club members' interests range from CB radio to computers and world-wide amateur ("ham") radio. Fellow radio hobbyists are invited to attend their meeting. Contact the club at PO Box 232 Northern Hills 2999, or telephone the Publicity Officer, Mr Roger Duck, on (02) 73 7373 (AH).

★ ★ ★

For further information on this release, or the Northern Hills Radio Club, please telephone Mr Roger Duck, Publicity Officer, on 607 5581 (BH), 73 7373 (AH).

UHF NEWS

This issue, I was going to inform everyone about the latest repeaters to come on air. I was going to tell what some of the UHF clubs and groups have been doing, and report on the local scene from all over Australia. Maybe even reply to some letters I had received about the column itself.

Yes, I was going to do it — except that no-one sent me any letters. No clubs or repeater associations, no-one from the industry, no individual hobbyists — no-one could be bothered to write.

They are the same mob who will complain that this column doesn't really tell them anything — except that the reason is, they haven't told me anything.

So please, keep me informed of all UHF news — or the space given to your UHF column will be taken up by another advertisement.

★ ★ ★

Another area that relies upon input from readers is the repeater list. The only reason it has been dropped from the magazine is that it is so far out of date.

I am asking anyone who knows about any repeaters in their area to write to this column and give me a few basic details, so we can get the repeater list up to date and back in print. Just let me know the general area of the repeater, channel number, site and the name of the sponsoring group. The site doesn't have to be exact — just the general location will do.

A typical listing would be as follows: Launceston — 2/32 — Mt Arthur — Launceston Rpt Assoc.

So, send the above information about your local repeater to this column — the address is at the end of the page.

I would also like to hear from repeater sponsors about their own installation — equipment used, coverage, how it was established and so on.

★ ★ ★

One new UHF antenna that has been released is a mobile whip from Max Short, designer of the popular and well-established MXLR range. Joining the ranks of the HF antennas such as his Totem, Blue Cap and Redback, is a new 477 MHz model.

Max believes that you can only sell the right UHF mobile antenna if you know where it is to be mounted — some whips are great for a roof mount, but lousy for fender or boot-mounting.

So, his new high-gain UHF whip is designed to perform equally well in any location — just the thing for truly hassle-free UHF installations.

Max claims that it will out-perform 80 percent of UHF mobile whips — in cases where people have bought an antenna which does not work best where it is to be mounted.

If you are in the market for an all-round UHF whip, call into your local CB shop and have a look at the new MXLR mobile antenna.

★ ★ ★

Melbourne's Omega Radio Club will kick off the new year with a super-repeater installation over the weekend of March 7-9th. As a way of testing a variety of antenna systems on their mobile/portable MEL-99 repeater, DOC has granted approval to activate the unit from Mt Skeene, 150km north-east of Melbourne.

Located at a height of 1572m above sea level, and using ch. 8/38, it is expected that MEL-99 will cover almost half of Victoria — from Orbost in the east, and north to Shepparton, through to Melbourne and surrounds.

Their weekly broadcasts have resumed, held every Wednesday at 8pm — listen on ch. 11 before 8pm for an announcement of which channel the broadcast will be held on.

Sad to announce, however, the winding-up of the Victorian UHF Radio Club, earlier this year.

★ ★ ★

Nineteen eighty six ended in a poor way for UHF CBers in and around Gippsland and the south-east corner of Victoria.

In the final stages of its trial atop Mt Nugong, the ch. 1/31 repeater was stolen on the morning of Monday, 29 December.

To date, the repeater had provided excellent coverage of the area, and the Gippsland Repeater Association was to give consideration to becoming administrators of the unit.

The equipment stolen was on loan from Bairnsdale Communications, and consisted of a Kyodo KG-105BRS repeater station (utilising two KG-105 UHF two-way radios, similar in appearance to the Sawtron 990 — serial numbers 6005174 and 6005183).

Also stolen were two large 40-watt Solarex solar panels, a Solarex voltage regulator unit and three Solarex 100 amp-hour batteries.

Anyone with information which may help recover the equipment or lead to the apprehension of those responsible for the theft should contact Bairnsdale CIB on (051) 52 4144.

In addition, a $1000 reward will be offered to anybody who can provide information leading to the recovery of the equipment. Contact (051) 52 4622 or (051) 56 6928.

★ ★ ★

Don't forget — UHF and repeater news doesn't just appear in this column by magic. Please send contributions to: The 477 Report, PO Box 358, Granville, NSW, 2142.

NEW RELEASES

The Ultimate in Scanners

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Features:
10 Band
10 Channel
Auto Lockout
Scan Delay
LCD Display

100 XL

Features:
Crystal Free
Solid State
Circuitry,
Manual Step
Search,
LCD Display,
Selective Scan
Delay, Search

MC 990

Scanning VHF Marine Hand-Held Transceiver
Features:
Key Pad Entry,
Dual Watch,
High Power,
Rechargeable
Nicad Batt. Pack,
All Telephone
Channels.

Please send me details of the new product releases in **CB Action Magazine**

Name _____

Address _____ Postcode ____

SEND COUPON FOR MORE DETAILS

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With all the bite its name suggests
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Telephone: (09) 344 3937

VIC: MELBOURNE
446 BELL ST. EAST PRESTON
VICTORIA 3072
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NSW: SYDNEY Head Office
13 GAREMA CIRCUIT, KINGSGROVE

PHONE (02) 758 1522 TELEX AA73170
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Santronic

AMFAR DIES — SMIS IS STILLBORN!

By Richard Barrett, author of the E.S.G. Frequency Registers

AMFAR went into a coma on 1st September last year and is expected to breath its last at about the time you read these words.

After a public life of just two years, the Australian Master frequency Allocation Register (AMFAR) has been killed off to make way for the Department of Communications' new baby — the Spectrum Management and Information System (SMIS).

As we are all aware, new babies have some nasty habits. They urinate on anybody who dares touch them, lay comatose when the family comes to visit, require frequent nappy changes, suffer from endless teething problems and finally grow up to become unmanageable monsters.

You can be sure that the DOC's infant will be no different!

SMIS has already caused quite a stink in DOC officers in New South Wales and Queensland by refusing to do what it's told, and by constantly blowing raspberries in the faces of its hapless minders.

Genesis

There is no doubt that AMFAR was unable to meet the Department's requirements for a management and information system which would allow the effective management of the nation's airwaves.

Equally, there was no doubt that AMFAR went a long way towards meeting the needs of the communications, industry, amateur operators, monitors, scanner users and police intelligence and drug units.

The Department saw SMIS as "a means of improving labor productivity while simultaneously improving the standard of service provided "to users.

What the Department did not see was the inability of the new baby to handle the relatively simple task of regurgitating what it had ingested.

The squealing infant does regurgitate — but not always those things that are required, and never its entire contents!

Talk to the powers that be in Canberra and you'll be told that there are one or two teething problems, and that the infant will grow quickly into a normal healthy child.

My diagnosis is that the foetus should have been aborted while it was still in the mind(?) of some faceless and nameless bureaucrat.

My prognosis is that the infant will spend the rest of its limited life in a home for the mentally retarded.

We can only hope that when that happens its parents will cease copulating about and decide to adopt a grown child of proven qualities.

Rip-off?

Where does all this leave John Citizen who goes to his local DOC office and pays his $20 for a microfiche copy of AMFAR?

It leaves him in mid-stream without a paddle!

A citizen who paid his money in January or February would, in due course, have received a packet of microfiche about one-half the size that he would have received prior to last September.

This lack of quantity would have been the result of all New South Wales and Queensland entries having been extracted and then force-fed to SMIS.

SMIS, still being hungry, was then fed a diet of bulk licenses, i.e. Telecom, Defence Forces and the like.

Poor bemused John Citizen is left holding a dismembered child!

That he distinctly recalls Communications Minister Michael Duffy saying that the Department's record of frequency allocations was an important resource that "should be made available for public scrutiny" helps not one little bit in trying to discover when he can expect the other half of what he's already paid for in advance.

If he's really persistent, and is prepared to pay the cost of some 'phone calls to Canberra, he might strike lucky and finally get to talk to somebody who will tell him all about the change-over from AMFAR to SMIS.

Codes

If our poor citizen decides that half a loaf is better than none and starts to peruse the microfiche, what does he find? He finds that much of the information is coded!

So, he very politely asks the Department to explain the codes.

"No way!" says the Department.

"We can't tell you that — it's classified!"

Our poor citizen trudges home, sits down before his expensive microfiche reader, and tries to make some sense out of the hieroglyphics appearing on the screen.

After a few days (or weeks) of puzzlement he begins to make sense of AMFAR when, suddenly, he asks himself if SMIS will be in the same format and use the same codes.

He can't find the answer, and neither can I.

I would be prepared to guess that the public copy of SMIS — if there ever is one — will contain much the same information as AMFAR, but be presented in a different way.

Codes will be new — but have a similar basis to AMFAR.

Having carefully studied AMFAR fo 18 months, I reckon that I've managed to crack some of the codes.

I offer my solutions in the hope that they may be some help to readers who have to cope with SMIS.

Get cracking

Cracking a code is time-consuming rather than brain-consuming.

Cracking a code dreamed up by bureaucrats is easy if you begin by realising that such creatures will always take the simple route, and that the whole will have simple logic dotted here and there with minor irrelevancies.

The three letter code identifying government users is the easiest to quickly come to grips with. AMB is obviously Ambulance, FFR is fire fighting (Rural), and FFU is fire fighting (Urban).

The 26 single letter "user" codes can be worked out by going through the microfiche and listing the type of business against the appropriate letter in the alphabet.

'Class' refers to the type of station licensed, the two most obvious being the fixed base station (FB) and mobiles (ML).

Many of the other classes can be guessed by looking through the DOC publication 'Australian Table of Frequency Allocations', and by looking at the names of users and emission codes in AMFAR.

I can't guarantee the accuracy of the accompanying tables, but I reckon they're fairly close to the mark.

Good luck with your code breaking — if you ever manage to get your hands on SMIS!

AMFAR — User (3 letter)

ABO	Austn B/casting Corporation	FDS	Flying Doctor Service
AGD	Austn Govt Department	FFR	Fire Fighting (Rural)
AGI	Austn Govt Instrumentality	FFU	Fire Fighting (Urban)
AMB	Ambulance	FOR	Forests/NPWS
APC	Australia Post	HLH	Dept of Health
DAA	Dept Aboriginal Affairs	HLI	Dept of Health (State)
DAG	Dept of Agriculture (State)		
DAS	Dept of Admin Services	IPS	Ionospheric Prediction Svc
DCT	Dept of Capital Territory		
DEF	Defence Forces	LGD	Local Govt Authy
DFA	Dept of Foreign Affairs		
DFF	Dept of Fisheries (State)	MET	Bureau of Meteorology
DHA	Dept of Home Affairs		
DHC	Dept of Housing & Const.	NDO	Natural Disasters Org.
DHS	Dept Housing & Const (State)	NTG	Northern Territory Govt
DIE	Dept Immigration & Ethnic		
DLS	Dept of Lands (State)	OTC	O/seas Telecoms Comm.
DMS	Dept of Mines (State)		
DND	Dept of Nat'nl Development	RLY	Railway
DOC	Dept of Communications		
DOE	Dept of Education	SBS	Special B/casting Svc
DOF	Dept of Education (State)	SES	State Emergency Svc
DOS	Dept of Service	SGD	State Govt Dept
DPS	Dept of Works (State)	SGI	State Govt Instrumentality
DRS	Dept of Roads (State)	SIR	CSIRO
DTA	Dept of Aviation		
DTR	Dept of trade	TAC	Dept Transport
DTS	Dept of Transport	TAS	Dept Transport (State)
DWS	Dept Water Supply (State)		
ESA	Electricity Supply Authy	UKG	U.K. Government
EPA	Environmental Protection	USG	U.S. Government

AMFAR — Class

AL	Aeronautical (Land)
AM	Aeronautical (Mobile)
AT	Amateur
BC	Broadcast (Radio)
BT	Broadcast (TV)
CB	CBRS
EP	External Paging
EX	Experimental
	ALL OTHER 'E's REFER TO SATELLITES
FB	Fixed Base
FC	Fixed Base (Coast)
FL	Fixed (Land?)
FP	Fixed (Port)
FX	Fixed
IP	Internal Paging
MA	Aircraft
ML	Mobile
MS	Ship
MX	Meteorological
RB	Reserved (Class B)
RC	Reserved (Class C)
SR	Split site Rx
ST	Split site Tx
T	THE WHOLE OF 'T' SEEMS TO RELATE TO EARTH STATIONS WORKING SATELLITES

SUCKERBAIT!

(An insight into Rod Fewster's weird sense of humor . . . . by Albert Ross)

"Canberra (AAP). Following numerous representations from and lengthy discussions with interested Citizens Band Radio Clubs the Department of Communications announced today that CB Channel 35 (27.355 megahertz) will become an officially-designated Call Channel for a trial period of twelve months starting from midnight tonight.

Spokesman for the Department of Communications Mr Nigel Porvny told reporters that the Department hoped that this move would put an end to the constant arguments on Channel 35, and stressed that the on-air behavior of CB operators in general during the next twelve months would determine whether or not Channel 35 would be designated as a Call Channel permanently at the conclusion of the trial period.

Mr Porvny said that recently-introduced legislation provided for severe penalties to be imposed on Citizens Band operators who harassed other operators or interfered with their transmissions.

Mr Porvny also issued a warning to the anti-social element on CB Radio, saying that Departmental Investigators would be actively policing Channel 35 and that infringements of this latest amendment to the Radio Communications Act would be severely dealt with."

The foregoing "newspaper article" was read aloud over Channel 20 LSB at about 7am on the morning of September 24th during the daily "Kookaburra Breakfast Show" by Queensland Scene columnist and notorious stirrer Rod Fewster.

Rod put it over in a serious vein, claiming that he was reading it from that morning's edition of a Sydney newspaper, and at about 7.30am he read the "article" against for the benefit of latecomers to the channel.

By that evening it was the major topic of discussion on practically every channel, its credibility helped along no doubt by a few operators (obviously suffering from "The King's New Clothes Syndrome", as Rod Fewster later put it) who claimed that they had actually read the newspaper article themselves.

That night the "International Call Channel" brigade took over 35 LSB in full force, with one of their number (probably the dill who had been replaying Rod's early-morning comments all day) "reading" the "newspaper article" word-for-word several times while claiming to be reading it from the very Sydney newspaper Rod had referred to. The poor old Black Eagle One, a staunch opponent of the "Make-Thirty-Five-A-Call-Channel" movement, was appalled by the unexpected turn of events, but he accepted defeat relatively gracefully. The dreaded Fewster himself was conspicuous by his absence, and the "International Call Channel" boys claimed this absence as a win for their side.

Sounds of victory celebration filled the air, but the merriment was to be short-lived.

Canberra (AAP). The Department of Communications yesterday rescinded its decision to designate Citizens Band Radio Channel 35 as a Call Channel following outbreaks of violence in several capital cities.

In Canberra, Federal Riot Police were rushed to the Department of Communications offices to control fighting which broke out when protestors burned dozens of CB Radio Licences in the corridor after the Minister refused to see a delegation of CB operators and declined to accept a petition against the decision. Nine people were arrested on a total of twenty-six charges including wilful trespass, destruction of property, and assault.

Shots were fired in the Melbourne suburb of Fitzroy during a pitched battle between two opposing factions of CB Radio operators, one group being in favor of the decision and the other group demanding that channel 35 be left open for general usage. Four people including a Police Constable were treated for gunshot wounds at Royal Melbourne Hospital, and one man remains in a critical condition. Fourteen men and three women appeared in the Melbourne District Court yesterday and were remanded on various charges in connection with the incident.

In a scene reminiscent of the movie "Convoy", traffic in Central Sydney was brought to a standstill for several hours when angry CB operators locked and abandoned over three hundred vehicles in the middle of Pitt Street after Police tried to break up their protest parade. Fire hoses were turned on the angry mob after two-trucks called in to remove these vehicles were bombarded with bricks from a nearby demolition site. Ambulance officers treated thirty-two people for injuries at the scene, seven men and one woman were admitted to hospital, and Police made over a hundred and twenty arrests.

In Brisbane, Aviation House was cleared by Police when a suspicious package was discovered in the foyer of the Department of Communications offices. An Army bomb disposal unit later found that the package contained a jar of Vaseline and a stuffed albatross.

Department of Communications spokesman Mr Nigel Porvny admitted to reporters that his Department had been pressured into designating CB Channel 35 as a Call Channel, and that the Frequency Allocation Section had not fully investigated the possible reaction to such a move. He added that future Departmental policy would be to ignore representations from crackpot groups purporting to speak for the majority of CB Radio operators."

At about 7am on the morning of September 26th Rod Fewster read the foregoing "newspaper article" aloud during the "Kookaburra Breakfast Show, once again supposedly from that morning's edition of a Sydney newspaper.

When the contents of this second "newspaper reading" became widely-known most CB operators realized that they'd been had and were the victims of a well-executed hoax, but some still remain convinced that this episode actually took place, and even as I write this article a few diehards are still talking about "the riots after the RIs made thirty-five a legal call channel" as if it was a part of our history.

As Rod is fond of saying,

"THERE'S ONE BORN EVERY MINUTE AND MOST OF THEM OWN A CB RADIO"

OVER-BIGHT NEWS FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA

By ANDREW GARDNER

After my limited use of the UHF Citizens Band in Adelaide I have come to the conclusion that CB radio enthusiasts are not welcome in Adelaide. If you don't use "on air" procedure that certain operators want to hear, then they try and prevent your use of the repeaters by timing them out, playing music and yelling obscenities at you. They appear to be "would be if they could be, but they can't be so they're not". Instead, these operators try and make the UHF similar to the 2 meter and 70cm Amateur Bands. Unfortunately these operators couldn't pass their exams, so now they live in a world where they think that they ARE Amateur Radio Operators. It's about time they sought professional help and realise that they are CB RADIO OPERATORS.

★ ★ ★

There was some chaos the other day while I was listening to the Channel 1 repeater. We all know what a pain in the bottom selcall is, and it appears that someone is having a bit of fun with it. From my observation this person had taped several selcalls and replayed about 10 tones at once. What a mess it causes — definitely a CB radio enthusiast and "anti commercial" user?

★ ★ ★

It appears that the local Radio Branch in SA must still be on holidays. We have a nuisance down here who excels in playing music and jamming the repeaters. I challenge the Department of Communications to enforce the Radio Act of the century and rid the air waves of this person (section 65.9), before someone else takes the Radcom Act into their own hands and imposes harsher penalities.

Reminds me of when a Brisbane CB radio group used to arm themselves with pick handles to rid the spectrum of nuisances.

★ ★ ★

It's certainly different belonging to one of the emergency monitoring groups here in Adelaide — you practically have to arm yourself in fear of other monitoring groups. During the recent struggles for the 5/35 emergency repeater it seems that one group in particular has got their act together, with some members of the other groups complaining at great length, that the other is taking too many calls. To a person in distress it wouldn't make any difference which organisation took the call.

★ ★ ★

At least the Adelaide repeater is mainly used for emergency calls with the occasional chit chat between monitors, however just recently when I was holidaying in the Sunshine State, I monitored the 5/35 repeater for several days. To my amazement the repeater was only used for idle chit chat between monitors to pass "this and that" along. After asking around it appears that the general opinion is that the 5/35 repeater should be reallocated for public use instead of emergency use only. In my opinion it would be beneficial if the 5/35 repeater was reallocated to another frequency and emergency cases made on Channel 5 simplex. The existing repeater is serving merely as a private facility for a chosen few.

★ ★ ★

Now a little about a radio club here in SA, and the rest of Australia. It's not new by any means — it's the Overland Radio Club Inc. Basically, it is a national radio club which has bi-monthly newsletters, and is currently conducting a competition known as the Intra Club DX Competition.

The object of the competition is quite simple. All you have to do is contact fellow members over a 12 month period, logging all contacts. The winner will be declared Member of the Year and will receive a certificate. If you have any more enquiries about this club, address them to: The Membership Officer, Overland Radio Club Inc., P O Box 1010, Murray Bridge 5253.

★ ★ ★

It seems as every city has got one. We in Adelaide have Robby. Robby has just bought himself a new 40 ch DB — UHF. The "poor" chap didn't know what he was in for, as apparently all he did was ask for a "40 ch CB", and was sold a UHF rig. He started searching for the elusive call channel, but unfortunately he couldn't find the "mode switch" on his radio and was thrown into confusion. As the story goes, the poor chap was apparently using Ch 35 and was very rudely told what to do. Since then he has started to get the hang of it after receiving help from another CB radio enthusiast.

This leads to a question. Why do CB radio retailers not ask what the person will be using the radio for, rather than sell the customer a top of the line UHF rig for quite a considerable amount of money, when all they really wanted was a cheap 27MHz radio to talk to the YL down the road?

★ ★ ★

REACT is going strongly in South Australia, with a current list of real monitors, not a long listing of so called "glory seekers". REACT is in the process of setting up a marine emergency service, with their "twin city" Albury/Wodonga setting up a 4WD for mountain rescues. They are also making a video tape for instructional purposes. If you are interested in any part of REACT please phone (058) 32 5086 and ask for Wendy.

CB ACTION/DELTA BASE

WORDMAZE COMPETITION

WIN A UNIDEN PC-122 27 MHz RIG

Simply find the names of ten model or brand names of CB rigs advertised in this issue of CB ACTION.

These words may run horizontally, diagonally, vertically, backwards or forwards.

Post your entry to:

CB ACTION/DELTA BASE
WORDMAZE COMPETITION
GPO BOX 628E
MELBOURNE 3001

to reach us no later than March 27, 1987.

L	K	N	J	I	H	G	F	E	D	C	B	A
M	N	E	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X
D	C	D	B	Y	A	D	Y	A	M	A	Z	Y
E	F	I	G	H	I	J	K	L	O	M	N	R
U	E	N	O	H	P	O	R	T	C	E	L	E
V	M	U	T	S	H	R	Q	P	I	O	E	G
W	T	X	Y	Z	I	A	B	C	D	E	O	N
A	R	B	O	C	L	J	I	H	G	F	P	A
K	O	O	R	Q	I	P	O	N	M	L	A	R
A	N	O	Z	Y	P	X	W	V	U	S	R	T
B	A	M	C	D	S	E	F	G	H	I	D	J
E	C	E	C	A	Y	W	P	O	N	M	L	K
F	E	R	D	B	Z	X	V	U	T	S	R	Q

The winner will be selected from all the correct entries which have been received up to and including that date.

The draw will be conducted in the offices of CB ACTION on the closing date, and the result will be published in the next issue of CB ACTION.

The winner will be notified by mail prior to the publication of that issue.

I believe that the hidden words are:

1.....(6)
2.....(7)
3.....(6)
4.....(4)
5.....(12)
6.....(6)
7.....(6,3)
8.....(5)
9.....(7)
10.....(6)

I would like to enter the CB ACTION/DELTA BASE WORDMAZE COMPETITION. I agree to abide by the judges decision.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Postcode.....

Callsign (if any) .....

Telephone number .....

Signature.....

HISTORY OF A CB CLUB

With the news that the Victoria UHF Radio Club is in the process of liquidation, perhaps there may be a feeling of regret that another facet of this unique band of radio frequencies is passing.

In the early days, there were not many stations on air for diverse reasons, and not the least was scepticism on the effectiveness of UHF. One still prominent operator was told by a dealer in CB units that UHF was useless and "would not get over the back fence." Another reason was that the only transceiver available was the FM 320 at quite a high price considering the cost of 11 metre units.

In those days, any UHF station available was friendly and eager to start or maintain a responsible contact and much was learned in the process. Many stations joined the same group contact — sometimes a dozen or so was not uncommon — just for the pleasure of hearing and talking to others night after night.

Maurie Grimwood, VCF 604, was one of the regulars on these group QSOs. Talking of his involvement with a leading technicians' association, he offered to extend his experience to the formation of a club with its own newsletter, aims and code of ethics. The idea was immediately accepted, as no other club dedicated to UHF existed at the time. Maurie had definite ideas on the needs of such a club, and to develop these ideas tried on all three hats of Secretary, Treasurer and Editor of the newsletter and, while he operated a shop, he was mostly retired and this shop, the trade association and an 11 metre radio club were little more than a hobby.

In order that UHF should not degenerate into another 11 metre mess he insisted that P & T (now DOC) callsigns only should be used and the use of 'Handles' be discouraged, members operate within P & T guidelines and, of course, be licensed. That such practices are generally used today may well be due to Maurie Grimwood. The objective was to create a club with an atmosphere of belonging, but without peer pressure. One of the club aims would be the setting up and operation of a repeater system if such in the future was permitted. The formation of the club was ratified at a meeting of interested operators in December 1978 and reached a maximum of 136 members from all walks of life and most States of Australia.

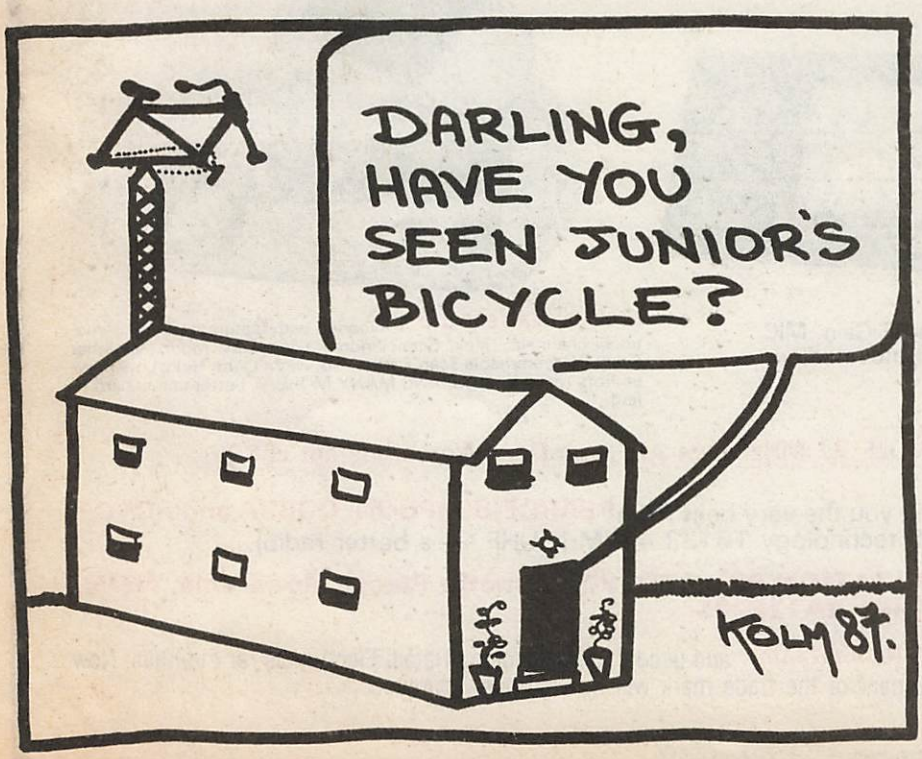
In October 1979 Maurie Grimwood died, and various successors tried to carry on his ideals, but the drive had gone and the repeater envisaged did not come to pass. The Victoria UHF Club initially enjoyed considerable success, part of that being the 'net' it instituted in which members logged in by callsign — the idea being to let others know what stations they could copy and their location, however, it was accused of 'hogging' channels and using high-handed tactics in the management of the band, none of which had any foundation in fact, other than the insistence of callsigns.

At first, the club was based in Preston mostly because the newsletter was printed there and was the best place for meetings. Later meetings were held at Kew, Box Hill and Camberwell.

In 1980, the club magazine "Two-Way" was launched and was for some years the club showpiece. Now the Club is disbanding and the UHF band may well be the poorer for it.

Vale, the Victoria UHF Radio Club Inc., VIC 999, as it later became known. It was better to have tried and failed than never to have tried at all.

(Story supplied by a foundation member.)



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THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

Memorable experience — I suppose it would have to be the story above, and a sea rescue we did using CB radio — I wrote that one into a story called 'MAYDAY' (which appeared in CB Action September 1985), but it actually happened — it was quite an evening.
Best aspect of CB — The friendship and safety aspects are just terrific. I've called from accident scenes and breakdowns with CB radio, and always managed to get help.
Worst aspect — The dickheads. We just can't seem to get away from them. Button pushers, music players and so forth. If it wasn't for them, CB would be marvellous.

PETER SMITH

First rig — The first rig I bought wasn't the first rig I got to use. My first purchase was an Xtal AM job, but that was confiscated by a pair of over-enthusiastic gendarmes the next day — before I had a chance to hook it up. It took three years before the court case came up, and the rig was returned to me courtesy of DOC, with their apologies. In the meantime I had purchased a Cobra AM/SSB mobile, which sported a few extra mods like a slider and extra channels. It was a super rig considering it was only early days, and I eventually gave it to one of my fellow workers — which reminds me, he still hasn't paid for it.
Current gear — I must admit that this list will look like a stocktake sheet from a CB shop. In the Tojo 4WD I have an FM620, and a Uniden AX144 AM/SSB. Home base consists of a Philips FM 901 mobile, which was originally in my old Henry, but the thought of carrying out a deep river crossing with two grands' worth of radio bolted to the floor of the Tojo made me nervous, so the 901 and the 620 swapped places. Mind you, the FM620 comes out on offroad trips and is replaced by an elderly FM320. I don't run a regular 27 MHz rig at home, mainly because of the fact that I usually have a pile of them to check out for rig tests.

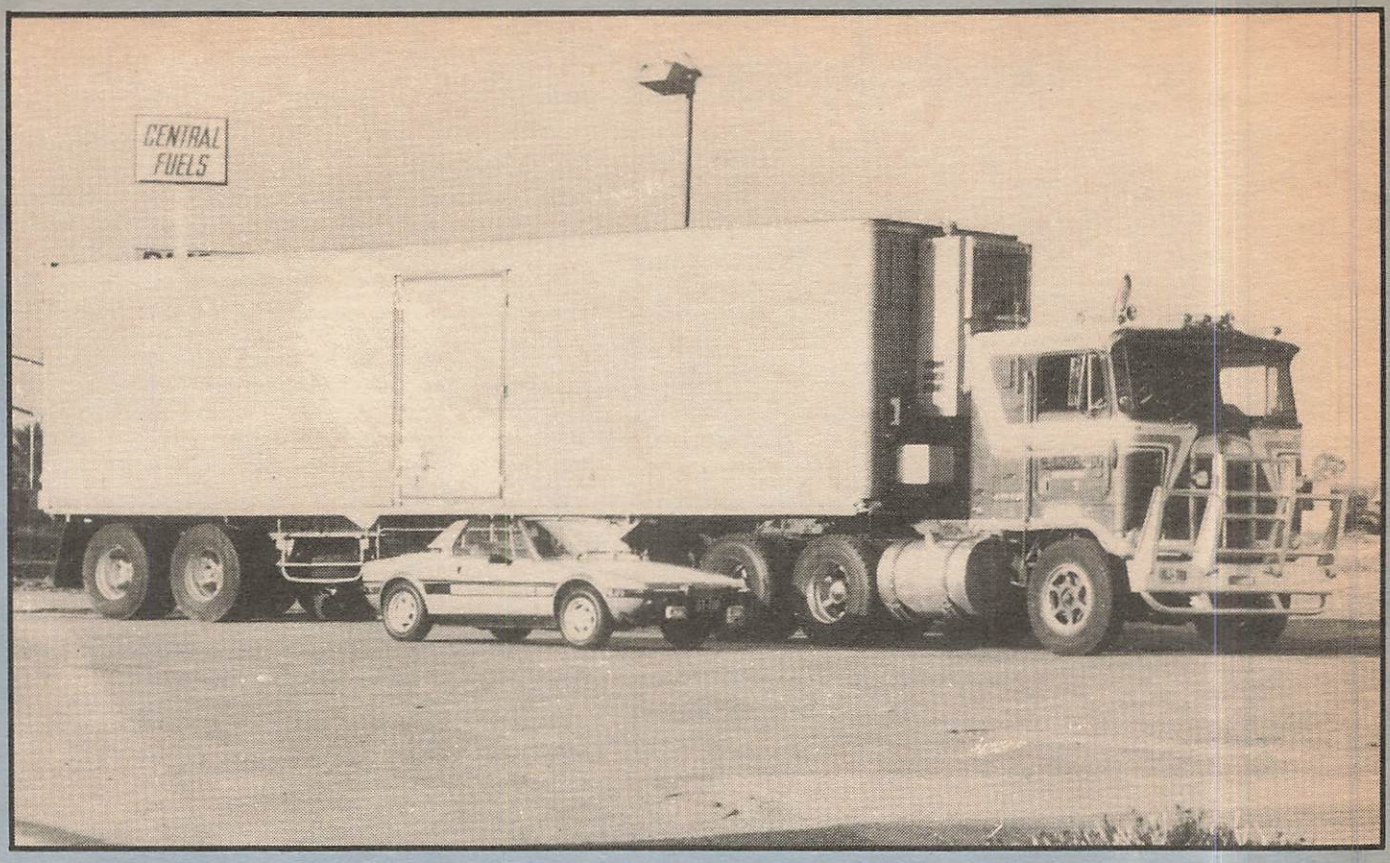
Having a boat, I also run CB in that too — an FM320, in addition to Electrophone 27 MHz marine and VHF units. I guess that you could call me a belt and braces man, but if you know the vagaries of Port Phillip Bay like I do, sometime, somewhere, you are going to use them all. For pedestrian operation, I have an IC-40 UHF handheld, and also a Bearcat 100 scanner. Home base scanning will soon be taken care of by an AOR 2002 scanner if all my plans come to fruition.
Favourite rig — I'll split this into two sections — UHF and 27 megs. My favourite UHF rig would have to be the Philips 901 because of its performance and programmable features. Mind you, the 620 is its equal performance-wise. The best 27 meg rig which I have had — which was a test only — was the Tham base station with the tennis racquet microphone. Len Shaw, the managing editor, and myself fought tooth and nail over this one, but he pulled rank on me and I lost it.
Why CB radio? A couple of things had a bearing on my interest in CB. I was "moonlighting", trying to keep body and soul together, and had a part-time job working for a security service as radio operator. The advantage of radio communcations soon became apparent, and not long after I had my first contact with CB via a friend who was using it at Lake Eildon.

My regular job entailed a great deal of country travel, and I soon became aware of the efficiencies of CB in getting road reports, and even more importantly, getting assistance to an accident scene. At last count, there are probably six people who owe their lives to the fact that my car had an illegal CB installed, and the truckie base, who answered my call for assistance.

In 1976 I got involved with the original CB ACTION, and its right to get CB legalised. The rest is history.
A memorable experience — A couple of instances come to mind. The first was a visit by a radio inspector who sprung me in the middle of a rig test — pre-legislation of course. Physically, this guy was unmistakable, and I thought, 'This is it — I hope Len Shaw will put up the bail.' All he wanted was a cup of coffee and to say g'day — a subtle way of telling me that they had me pegged should I ever deviate from the straight and narrow. I must admit that this instance changed my mind about the mythical 'ogre' RIs which seemed to haunt the pirate CBer, and since then have found that RIs will give you a fair go — if you deserve it, but if you want to try and poke it up them, then beware.

The second memorable instance came at Albury, the night that legislation was announced. My job took me there quite regularly, and up until that memorable night, I had only been able to contact maybe half a dozen people in Albury/Wodonga. I went out to my car after the news bulletin announcing legislation, and couldn't believe my ears! There must have been a hundred stations on the call channel, all talking at once, and, when I returned to Melbourne, what had been a pretty quiet scene had also turned into bedlam. Honest to God, they came out of the woodwork! It got so bad that the only time I turned on my 27 MHz rig was to run a rig test. Then I was invited by Philips to run a field test using UHF, and in retrospect, the excitement that I felt after that field test must count as my most memorable experience, in that I realised that a whole new world was going to open up for the Australian CBer, and ! was going to be part of it.
Best aspect of CB — I would be accused of tampering with the truth if I didn't own up to the fact that it keeps me employed, but apart from that it allows people to communicate. I am a single father with a 12-year-old son and UHF CB allows him to keep in touch with me all-the-way from the office to home, and anywhere else in Melbourne for that matter, via the repeaters. No less important is its value as an emergency and safety tool.
Worst aspect — The answer to that is predictable. The foul mouths, music players, button pushers, and carrier droppers really get up my skirt. I wish they would find another hobby — like walking a tightrope over the Niagra Falls blindfolded, without a safety net, and a bag of cement tied to each leg.

The other aspect that worries me is the price of equipment now. CB used to be an inexpensive way of getting into communications and electronics, but nowadays you need at least a grand in the kitty before you can go window shopping! And — it's going to get worse the way our 'South Pacific Peso' is dropping against the Japanese yen. The Nips are pricing themselves out of the market, as evidenced by the shift of Electrophone's production from Japan to Taiwan and Australia.



David Flynn's flying Fiat is dwarfed by an 18 wheeler.

TRAVELLER'S TALES

By DAVID FLYNN PHOTOGRAPHY SCOTT MANTLE

TWO WEEKS OF TOURING — WITH CB RADIO ON THE JOB

SYDNEY — WEDNESDAY 21 JAN., 1987

The trip began with a morning appointment at Captain Communications, to select and fit 27 MHz gear for the journey. I usually only run with UHF in the car, but for any driving trips — well, you're mad if you don't get outfitted with HF.

Chosen was a compact Uniden PC-122 AM/SSB mobile, coupled with the popular ZCG whip. One quick installation later and I was on my way.

27 MHz was quickly pressed into service, when a minor accident banked up the lanes of the Hume Highway at Liverpool, south of Sydney. Whilst the masses struggled along the centre and outside lanes, dozens of CBing mobiles were given the good oil on channel 8 — and zipped along the kerb lane.

All was fairly quiet until Goulburn, especially as UHF went.

I've often wondered how well a repeater at Mt Gibralter or Razorback would perform. My own experience on the VHF amateur repeaters at these sites proved just what a commanding range the right installation would have — constant mobile UHF coverage from the southern and western outskirts of Sydney, through to the southern highlands and perhaps Goulburn itself.

As I drew within range of Goulburn's ch 4/34 repeater, it was clearly active. A scrub fire had broken out on Governors Hill, to the north, and 4/34 was heavily in use by the local volunteer fire brigades.

Eight units were despatched to the fire, which was quickly under control. Once things had quietened down, I spoke to Dulcie, NBM-310 — who ran Mulwaree Base, the heart of the Goulburn network.

Dulcie explained that each of the local brigades had its own base, and a number of mobiles, all working through the local repeater.

4/34 was erected by Ken Oakley, from Double Diamond Electronics, and performs well in and around Goulburn. It is used by some businesses and hobbyists, and heavily relied upon by fire services. Their priority is respected by all other users, who co-operate by leaving the repeater clear during fire operations.

Passing out of Goulburn, the police were well in force along the highway, and channel 8 AM was as useful as I had expected. A lot of truckies were surprised — and amused — to talk to the owner of the little blue sports car which weaved its way south, and their

conversation was a great way to break the monotony of the trip.

After an overnight stop at Albury, the trek continued. The polie and highway patrols were again out in force, no doubt due to the holiday season.

One blue-light decided that I was a potential speedster, and sat on my tail for the next ten minutes. Maybe he was waiting for me to step over the limit, or break the Victorian rule against using a two-way radio whilst mobile . . . in any event, I was cautious not to put a foot wrong.

The truckies on ch. 8 had a good laugh at all of this, especially when the pair of us were overtaken by others who thought the pace I set was too slow.

Eventually the patrol found it likewise, dropped back, and pounced on a Brock Commodore which was burning the bitumen in the other direction.

Mid-afternoon, the Mt Wombat 3/33 repeater came into range, and was one of the many repeaters I was to find that had excellent coverage. Through 3/33, I chatted with Chris, VBX-106, who was on duty in a bush-fire observation tower in the LaTrobe Valley, some 300 km to the south.

Approaching Melbourne, each of the four MEL repeaters were quickly within range, particularly 5/35, with truly outstanding coverage for a capital city repeater.

MELBOURNE — THURSDAY, 22 JAN.

That evening, it was my pleasure to attend the January meeting of the Omega Radio Club, long established as Australia's leading UHF CB group.

I have always found their meetings to be friendly and enjoyable — this one was no exception. They would have the best committee of any club I have ever seen.

My Melbourne base was at Frankston, along the Mornington Penninsula, and Friday was a day for playing the tourist. Riding trams and the city loop, lunch at the Bleakhouse, and a Scenic drive through the Dandenongs.

The evening was spent in the pleasant company of Leon Senior (VBQ-929), charming wife Carol, and family. Although he is incredibly modest about it all, Leon is one of the fathers of UHF CB — foundation member of the Omega Radio Club, CRRA (which paved the way for UHF CB repeaters and designed the original band-plan), former CBA correspondent, and is responsible for the portable repeater MEL-99.

Saturday morning, and my travelling companion and partner-in-crime, Scott Mantle, arrived via coach from Sydney. Melbourne turned on its typical welcome to Sydneysiders — a sky which was overcast, cold and drizzling wet.

Ducting had been evident the previous night, and was now in even better form. Using the IC-40 (part of my standard travelling kit) from Frankston, we were able to trigger repeaters at Ballarat and Bendigo.

In search of nightlife, we headed back to the city for the evening, via the newly-commissioned Port Philip Bay hovercraft — and briefly operated the IC-40 'maritime hovercraft mobile' into 7/37. Melbourne, Saturday night — I mean, what can you say? Any hour, any Saturday (or even Sunday) in Sydney — streets, theatres, restaurants are all brimming with people, with life. But Melbourne — not a soul. Perhaps they'd dropped the bomb and forgotten to tell us.

Gary Reeves, Corowa Electronics — see our Industry Report in this issue.

We left a grey-skied Melbourne early Sunday morning. An hour out of the city, the sun came back, and stayed with us for the next two weeks — until we returned to Melbourne, when it got cold once more.

Travelling on the Great Ocean Road — a winding scenic route that snakes along the south-west Victorian coastline — conditions on both bands excelled themselves.

The Uniden/ZCG combination was a real winner, pounding clear signals into Tasmania, Sydney, Port Macquarie and the mid-Queensland coast.

But the greater surprise was 477 MHz. We found ourselves accessing a repeater on 2/32 — by the strength and clarity of the tail, we assumed it was very local. Another appeared on 8/38, and calls were made on both repeaters to determine their location.

Settling the vehicle on a ridge near the Otway Ranges, we announced our presence on 2/32, and were replied to — by Malcolm, TAH-751. It wasn't even a Victorian repeater — but Launceston!

Malcolm was quickly joined by a number of T's, scattered along the mid-northern coast of the Apple Isle. The ducting was well and truly 'in' — ch. 8 was Burnie, and both were accessible through handhelds — on low power! Total distance — in excess of 300 km!

We've since been told that this isn't as unusual as we first thought, as the summer months often link UHFers across the Bass Strait.

After a comfortable chat, conditions began to fade, so we resumed our journey and found Otway's ch. 3/33 repeater to give very reliable coverage.

The rest of the day was a long drive, through to Adelaide — and noting that the road markers tell you how far away you are from Melbourne, not how close you are to the next main town. Perhaps they were erected by a road gang who'd had similar experiences with Melbourne weather and night-life?

Before we had crossed the border into South Australia, 8/38 Mt Gamber was loud and clear — the first of a chain of repeaters that span the major road routes of the state.

ADELAIDE — MONDAY, 26 JAN.

Clearly, the SA 477 MHz repeater scene is well-developed. You could be forgiven for expecting Victoria, or possibly even NSW, to hold this honor without any overall co-ordination, lacking strong UHF clubs or a heavy industry-base, South Australia has come out of it with — in my view, and from my own experience — the best network of UHF CB repeaters in the country.

Monday morning — Australia Day, 1987. In Adelaide's Rundle Mall, Premier John Bannon cut the cake whilst the crowd sang "Happy Birthday Australia". Even on the afternoon of a public holiday Adelaide has more sun and life than Melbourne on a Saturday night!

The next two days took us around Spencer Gulf, to Port Lincoln — and never out of range of a repeater. From Adelaide to Whyalla, we could access 12 repeaters within as many hours.

Obviously, this is a lot of repeaters, and more than the regular 8 channels allow for. So you'd expect a bit of doubling up on channel allocations. Maybe three on a channel, if they were far enough apart.

But in SA, when someone says to you 'You're accessing 4', they don't just mean the channel — but the number of repeaters you can trigger!

At the time of writing, four different repeaters have been allocated on 4/34 — at Anguston, Snowtown, Naracoorte and Kangaroo Island. And more often than not, a mobile anywhere from Adelaide to Port Augusta can access two or three of these.

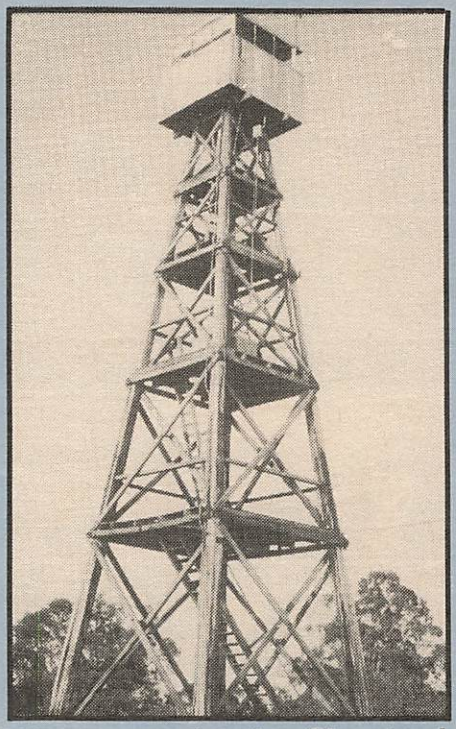
This leads to no small amount of confusion when you try to determine just which ch. 4 repeater you are using!

The SA DOC claim that the allocations were directives from 'Head Office', Canberra — that their own advice of 'two's company and four is a crowd' was ignored. There is talk that 6/36 Port Pirie will be swapping channels with 4/34 Snowtown — certainly a move for the better, which will give breathing space to other ch. 4 repeaters.

The proliferation of channel 4 repeaters has led to a noticeable bit of misinformation which far too many SA stations subscribe to — that when two or more repeaters are on the same channel, they are linked and allow the user to 'hop' large distances, with each repeater relaying his signal to the next.

We've been told this by almost a dozen people, on air and in person, and they truly believe every word of it. For their benefit, and others who may have the same misconception — let me state the facts below.

UHF CB repeaters are in no way 'linked' to one another, especially if they are on the same channel. Using the SA example of 4/34 — as the allocation indicates, the repeater uses two separate UHF channels. It receives your signal on ch. 34, and retransmits it on ch. 4.



The tower for the Gippsland Repeater Association's Bairnsdale repeater.

Every ch. 4/34 repeater works in exactly the sam way. So, clearly, there can be no 'inter-linking' between them. For that to be possible, one would have to have its output (ch. 4) retransmitted on the input (ch. 34) of another.

This is obviously not the case. If you can access two or more repeaters on the same channel, you are covering a larger area than just through one repeater — provided no-one closer to any of the repeaters doubles with you, and overrides your signal. But linking of repeaters? Forget it.

While on the topic of misinformation, it was too great a temptation not to play the innocent CBer, and bait some of the stores we came across. Not CB shops, but more the 'everything electronic' retailers — where you're as likely to find stereos, TV sets and other goodies.

No names, no pack drill, as they say. But except for a consistent belief in 'repeater linking', most of the stores checked out well. One gent even gave us a contact name and phone number for the local repeater association.

The big shocker was in Adelaide, of all places. In a shopping plaza in the centre of the city we came across a local outlet of a national electronics chain.

Standing behind the counter, along with two sales clerks, was a fully-uniformed member of one of the monitoring groups, sewn cloth patches on the shirt, Royce portable slung over the shoulder, name-badge and call-sign nice and prominent.

Assuming the role of the very green CBers, the combined efforts of shop staff and monitor gave us the following gems — which they fully believed, and passed on to us as gospel truth, fact, indisputable law.

★ 'Repeaters on the same channel are 'inter-linked'.' (Just thought I'd start you off on a familiar one!)

★ 'The Dept. of Communications is definitely scrapping AM CB in 1993, and replacing it with FM.' 'What about sideband?' we ask. 'Oh, that's just the same as AM, that will be banned also, it will be FM-only from 1993.'

★ 'DOC gives $2 from every licence fee ($13) to Philips, to pay for the repeaters.' Did you know that? Even when you licence your 27 MHz rig, part of the fee goes to Philips for UHF CB repeaters. Even if Philips didn't put up the repeater in your area — even if there isn't a repeater in your area — Philips still gets $2 from your CB licence! (Fat chance! — Ed.)

If any of the culprits from the above-mentioned scene recognise themselves — try and get your facts right, before you start dishing out advice to customers (and non-monitors!).

Back to the trip — come Tuesday, we are comfortably settled in Port Lincoln.

Fronting a water area over three times that of Sydney Harbour, the Port and its waterways are equally as beautiful. Located at the southern tip of the Eyre Peninsula, it was originally the proposed site of the

South Australian capital, and is now undergoing rebirth as the heart of a picturesque tourist area.

Here, we were under the wing of another of the state's best repeaters — at Tumby Bay, 8/38. With coverage of most of the Spencer Gulf, the South Eyre Peninsula Repeater Association have done a magnificent job of bringing the common benefits of UHF CB to the district (although they suffer from a fault common to many other SA repeater sponsors — extreme suspicion of anyone asking questions, which makes it hard to find out anything more than what area the repeater covers).

But don't get the idea we spent no time appreciating the many delights of the region. The people are friendly (especially the females), and the fishing superb (well, everyone else caught something . . .). After a *'last super'* of cooked whiting, freshly caught at Coffin Bay, we boarded the MV Troubridge — a passenger/vehicle ferry which conveys to kangaroo Island and Port Adelaide.

In service for 25 years, the Troubridge is due to be decommissioned and replaced later this year (by something a little faster and more comfortable, we hope).

8/38 stayed with us for some distance, only to be replaced by another of the state's best repeaters — 2/32, Myponga (on the tip of the Fleurieu Peninsula). This one was sponsored by the local Volunteer Coast Guard, and covers the Yorke Peninsula, Kangaroo Island, around to Murray Bridge and up to Adelaide.

We arrived in Adelaide the next morning, somewhat worse for wear. The Troubridge isn't exactly The Regent Afloat when it comes to comfort.

Recuperation during the day, including a visit to Graham Fischer, from Gawler CB — one of those quietly knowledgeable gentleman CB dealers who seem to populate the country towns. In addition to managing is store, Graham has recently started hosting a series of regular outback tours.

Travelling in Graham's air-conditioned Range Rover 4WD, the deserts and ranges of South Australia are toured for anywhere from one to five days — the fare even includes 'good Aussie friendship'!

Later that evening I tripped off to the Adelaide Casino until the early hours of the morning, while Scott chose the more laid-back (and far cheaper) option of a friendly card game called 'Oh Hell' (which he renamed to 'Oh Shit', but that's another story . . .)

Another long haul followed, taking us through to Echuca and Corowa in Victoria.

NSW/VIC BORDER — MONDAY 2 FEB.

Corowa is perched on the banks of the Murray River, and the town runs on UHF CB — literally. Everyone, it seems, has a 477 MHz radio. The farmers, the businesses, the police and emergency services, the pubs and clubs — we even booked our accommodation at the Corowa Holiday Flats (run by Neville Smith, a pirate from the old days) over the 1/31 repeater.

It all happens on 1/31, you see — and local CB whiz Gary Reeves deserves the credit for it. Through Gary, UHF CB has become the link, the common denominator, of the town. If you ever want to see just what the potential of UHF CB is, spend some time in Corowa. You'll also get to know one of the nicest towns in the country. It's got everything to offer, and what it doesn't have, is only a few hours drive away.

From Corowa, across Mt Hotham and the Omea Highway to Bairnsdale — not a trip I would recommend you do in anything less than a 4WD. And certainly not in a car with a clearance of barely 4 inches!

As we approached Bairnsdale, the local repeater on 7/37 became clearer. George, VCJ-909 and a foundation member of the Gippsland Repeater Association, kindly took us to visit the site of 7/37.

From atop a tower on Mt Taylor, the repeater booms out over a large part of the Gippsland region — and was the first of a number of repeaters to be sponsored by the GRA.

George escorted us back towards Bairnsdale, and we continued to Sale — where we met with Clarrie, VAQ-593 and President of the association, the next morning.

Clarrie showed us the coverage area which the GRA's newest repeater, 6/36 at Mt Fatigue (northeast of Foster) should provide, and I must say that it is another impressive link in the Association's network of 477 MHz repeaters, throughout the south-east of Victoria.

Unfortunately, there are no leads as yet towards the recovery of the Kyodo repeater equipment, power supplies and other gear stolen from 1/31 Mt Nugong late last year. A $1000 reward has been offered for any information leading to the return of the repeater (I believe further details are in the 'UHF News' column).

After lunch, a quick few hours drive saw us arrive in Melbourne, in time for dinner and a guest appearance on the Omega Radio Club's weekly UHF broadcast.

The broadcast team really make this an enjyable experience, although a few idiots on air did their (pitiful) best to prevent others sharing the fun.

Still, the show must go on- . . . and as always, it did. Fuelled up by coffee and pizza, it was a great way to spend our last night in Melbourne.

An early start the next morning, and north to Nowra — and Culburra Beach, yet another of those small waterside towns which are too easy to fall in love with.

That's the story of Max Short, anyway — expatriate Sydney CBer, early pirate and antenna designer/builder extraordinaire. After dinner on Thursday night, we accepted Max's offer to visit his home and workshop the next day, and get an inside look into how helicals are made.

And how they are broken, too. Max cheerfully let us snap a Totem or two (takes some effort, at that), and demonstrated his newest UHF high-gain mount-anywhere whip. Take years of experience, a healthy attitude to life, a dollop of tall-but-true tales and one of the keenest and most erceptive minds in the business — and you've got the man behind the MXLR antennas.

Up from Nowra, and back to Sydney — the Highway Patrol have started the weekend early. They're around the bend, atop the freeway overpass — and we get to hear about them minutes before we see 'em, thanks to ch. 8 AM.

Another surprise is the lack of a UHF repeater for Wollongong. The city is almost made for VHF/UHF — perch a station in the right place on the escarpment and you'd have coverage across all the 'Gong and for a fair stretch along the Pacific Highway.

Back to Sydney, and then home — be it ever so humble, etc. We've run up close to 6000 kms over two weeks, and done it all too soon.

INDUSTRY REPORT

COROWA ELECTRONICS

Elsewhere in this edition of CB ACTION, you'll see a report on how the NSW country town of Corowa has been bought together through UHF CB radio.

'Industry Report' this issue focuses on the man who has proven the potential of CB radio in the area — Gary Reeves, of Corowa Electronics.

Gary is the atypical 'country' CB dealer — easy-going, informal, friendly, with a wealth of experience.

So how does such a nice guy end up in radio?

"I've been playing with electronics and radio since I was about ten years old," says Gary. He was also one of the very early pirates back in the good old days of 27.240 MHz, when everyone was running handhelds or Pye Overlander.'

Living and operating in Melbourne at the time, Gary remembers many of the characters from those days, including the legendary RI, David 'Goldie' Golds.

"I had a few run-ins with David Golds, who was a very fair bloke. He helped a lot of guys out, and did more than just police the radio. But I can't say too much about that", grins Gary, "I used to get into too much strife!"

Gary's first job in the field kept him on the move — working with TV, video and electronics systems for hotels and motels around Australia, through a Melbourne-based firm.

When business wound down, Gary felt it was time to move on — but to where?

"I'd been to Corowa before, and liked the place. I came into town, found a vacant shop — and I'm still here!" he says.

Gary's shop in Sanger St, the main commercial street of the town, is a far cry from the sometimes flashy and hustle-bustle display of gear which city retailers favour.

You get the feeling that almost anything electrical could be found on the repair shelves — assuming that (a) you look long enough and hard enough, and (b) you stay on friendly terms with his hulking German Shepherd dog.

"I started with CB and commercial gear, and also took in TV and video," says Gary, who arrived to find very little CB activity in the town — and only a few business operators.

Through his agencies for commercial two-way systems such as AWA and Kyodo, and facilities for everything from HF to UHF (including aircraft radios), a large number of local businesses found that modern communications was not restricted to the city-dwellers.

Gary estimates that he has supplied 20 or more small businesses within Corowa with UHF CB radio — quite a significant proportion for a country town with a population of barely 6500.

However, the business tally pales in comparison to the acceptance of 477 MHz by the community at large.

Farmers, truck drivers and families were quick to recognise the advantages of a low-cost, medium-range and easy-to-use two-way system. They were joined by every emergency service in and around Corowa — police, fire brigades, ambulance and hospital, rescue squads, and voluntary groups such as the CFA and SES.

Located at Corowa's water supply station, along with a half-dozen other repeaters and remote base stations, COR-01 is owned and maintained by Gary.

"Channel 1 started with a Plessey MTR-55 unit, and will soon be fully Kyodo. It presently uses a Philips FM-828, which works okay if you do a few modifications to them," Gary claims.

"The 828s work fine at the commercial UHF repeater split, which is up to 5 MHz. But going down to 750 kHz or 30 UHF channels, and there are problems with leakage of RF. If you can pull out the receiver, and place it in a separate box around three feet away, you get a big improvement".

Although he has worked with a lot of repeaters for commercial purposes, Gary prefers UHF CB in many ways. "I find that UHF CB is challenging. You're running on low budget - usually the people who put them up haven't got a lot of money. And the technical parameters are difficult to achieve with a 750 kHz split, it can be hard to get equipment to perform correctly."

"And if you haven't got a prime site, maybe 800 ft in the sky, someone is sure to bitch that the repeater down the road works better!" he laughs.

Channel 1/31 was intentionally designed with a limited range, restricting coverage to about 10 miles around Corowa. "But once you get into town' says Gary, 'it is rock solid everywhere."

To complement 1/31, Gary then commenced work on a second repeater, to provide extended mobile coverage throughout the area. This became the Wangaratta ch. 6/36 repeater, which he built and originally sponsored.

Since taken over by the North-east Repeater Group, Gary still looks after channel 6, and does maintenance work as necessary.

Gary is also the current 'foster parent' of ch. 2/32 at Walbundrie. Having provided the equipment at cost, and installing the repeater himself, the group who had intended to sponsor the repeater "split when it was time to come and pay," claims Gary — "so there is still a fair bit of money owing on it".

The next project is a repeater which Gary sees as being equally important to the township as 1/31. This is an emergency repeater, which — at the time of writing — had only just been approved.

Allocated to channel 5/35, with the callsign of COR-05, it is another 'first' — emergency repeaters are presently only operational in capital cities.

Licensed to Corowa Electronics, Gary says that COR-05 will use either AWA or Kyodo equipment — but will be a first-class installation, either way. The chosen site — at Redland Hill — will ensure the repeater has excellent range.

"It's only a matter of money, now," claims Gary, "getting the funds together. If we had the finances tomorrow, it would be on air in a week".

With such a wealth of repeater experience behind him, what advice does Gary pass on to potential

repeater sponsors?

"First, get your funds — repeaters can be an expensive thing. Assuming you've got a powered site, with tower, you could probably do it for $3000 to $4000, if you use the cheapest equipment. For the best — using Kyodo KG-105s, with a diplexer and notch filters, you're looking at the best part of $6000.

"The equipment type is of prime importance, particularly if the site is 50 to 60 miles from your radio tech. People will come to depend on it — and if it goes down, it's a long way to travel. So choosing good quality, reliable gear is of paramount importance.

"After the funding, organise the site. You've got to make sure it will give the coverage you want. And I mean rock solid within a given area, not just one or two mobile checks. You've got to do a thorough check, it's not worth putting the gear in and finding you've got a dirty great big hole somewhere."

From the technical point of view — Gary is a fully qualified technician, and a member of the TETIA and TESA service associations — he believes that the CB radio equipment being offered on the market today is far superior to the rigs of yesterday.

"We've definitely taken a step forward. Most UHF CB gear now is very close to commercial specs, and of course the Sawtron is up to thse specs in nearly every facet. I think it has been good for both the industry and the user, having everyone striving to improve radios. Technology has jumped ahead, and we are able to use the new technology.

"Surface-mount components in the latest Electrophones are a great leap forward. A pain in the neck for the tech, but a great step forward for the user!"

The trend in 27 MHz gear, however, has not been as impressive to Gary. "Excepting the Electrophones, again because of their use of surface-mount components, most 27 MHz rigs perform adequately. Their design philosophy is more commercialised than UHF — there are more knobs, pretty lights, which doesn't mean a thing to anyone who is fair dinkum."

Another aspect of concern to technicians is their role in fixing the gear. "Serviceability and back-up are important to us all," says Gary, "so I wish more importers could provide manuals. Not every technician can know everything. In fact there isn't a lot of service data for CBs period. For UHF CB it's good, but HF is nearly nonexistent."

These may be problems which all CB servicemen must deal with- . . . but how does being a radio technician in the country differ to that in the city?

"One of the biggest problems in the country is dust. This doesn't affect solid state components, of course, but variable components, pots, switches and so on.

"Another killer which is not as common in the city is vibration. Again, the surface mounting of the Electrophones is superior, by lowering the specific gravity and the inertia effect, plus rubber mounts to increase reliability. The average tractor running up to 15 hours a day is just constant vibration, day after day, especially in older tractors."

Even as a retailer, selling CB in the country is a different game altogether.

"You have to look after your customers," says Gary. "Do the wrong thing and sell a radio that doesn't work, and that's it. You might as well close the door. Recommendations bring people that drive 80 or 100 miles to get to you.

"Also, in the city, you'll find people are more price conscious. They will shop around, maybe drive 15 miles to save $10. And of course some city dealers tend to employ shop assistants who are technically know-nots, who give the wrong advice or don't know any better.

"You've got to do the right thing by customers all the time."

Gary has found the most popular brands amongst country UHFers to be the middle-of-the-range or upmarket units.

"The Electrophones, both TX-470 series and the TX-472, offered value for money, performance and high quality. And most people in the bush rely on their radios a little more than the hobbyist in the city, so they don't mind spending a few bob extra and getting something that's going to work all the time.

"So there are lots of Sawtron 990s around, with farmers and particularly commercials. We would have sold more than 200 990s over the last few years, which is a lot for a country area.

"Handhelds are also a steady seller, because of the extended range which repeaters give them. The IC-40 sells particularly well, and now Electrophone have come out with a winner of a handheld, the TX-475. We use them extensively, and they perform very well."

In an area so populated by UHF CB users, CB ACTION asked Gary what observations he wished to make regarding the role of the Dept. of Communications.

"The District Radio Inspectors at Wagga are very good, always helpful.

"There are changes needed, however. Additional channels for UHF are of prime importance, perhaps in this area more than anywhere else in Australia. Not an increase in power — that would destroy the purpose of the thing.

"DOC must also be more aware of what channels are used for repeaters, and the potential for interference between them. They have planned the UHF CBRS along commercial lines, with one base station and a number of mobiles. They are not taking into account that in the CBRS you have many base stations able to access one, two or up to three repeaters on a single channel. That's the problem, not taking base stations into consideration.

"Perhaps in the outback or remote areas, interlinking of repeaters could be looked at, so you can multi-hop to cover enormous distances, mainly for safety.

"I think the Department should also standardise on repeater operation — tails the same, and time-outs approximately the same — anything under 30 seconds is mad."

"The future in communications is digital. Digital signalling, and automatic identification of stations is a must — in Japan they already have it. ON a broader scale, everything will go digital, audio and video — there will be no analogue.

"The police will have computer terminals and keyboards in their cars, and there will be total control systems for all emergency services which will get them to the scene faster."

CB Action Club Register

NSW

Amateur and Citizens Radio Club, 2 Griffith Ave, Roseville NSW 2069.
Argonauts Radio Contact Club, C/- PO Railway Town NSW 2880.
Barrenjoey Peninsula Area CB Radio Club, PO Box 25, Avalon NSW 2107.
Beef Country Radio & Recreation Club, PO Box 852, Casino NSW 2470.
Berowra CB Radio Club, PO Box 2, Berowra NSW 2081.
Black Stump Radio Club PO Box 179, Coonabarabran NSW 2357.
Blue Mountains Repeater Association, PO Box 358, Granville NSW 2142.
Bravo Victor Radio Club C/- 11 Canning St Bega NSW 2550.
CB Callbook Club of Licensed Operators, 18 Malvina Parade, Gorokan, NSW 2263.
Central Western Citizens Band Community Radio Club, PO Box 628 Orange NSW 2800.
Disabled Water Sports Charity No 2023, C/- PO Saratoga NSW 2250.
Echo Victor Whiskey Radio Club of Newcastle, 6 Cheryl Close, Elermore Vale, NSW 2287.
Eleven Mike, PO Box 357, Singleton NSW 2330.
Eureka Base CB Radio Club Friends of Brain Injured Children, PO Box 12, Blacksmiths 2281.
G.L.C. Eastern Bases CB Radio Club, PO Box 767, Gosford NSW 225-.
FM CB Radio Owners Unite, PO Box 40, Gladesville, NSW 2111.
Gosford Citizens Radio Club, PO Box 447, Gosford NSW 2250.
Greater Cessnock City Radio Association, 48 Mayfield St, Cessnock NSW 2325.
Leisure Coast CB Radio Club, PO Box 1127, Wollongong, NSW 2500.
Lima Alpha Radio Club, PO Box 310, Lakemba, NSW 2195.
MacLeay Valley CB Radio Club PO Box 34, Kempsey NSW 2440.
Mallee Radio Australia CB Radio Club, PO Box 920, Griffith NAW 2680.
Metropolitan Radio Club, PO Box C31 Clarence St. Sydney NSW 2000.
Metropolitan West Radio Club, 74 Van Diemen Ave, Willmot NSW 2770.
Mike India CB Radio Club, PO Box 778, Campbelltown NSW 2560.
Moonlighters District Radio Club, PO Box 13, Hawks Nest NSW 2324.
National Dingo Association C/- Smithville via Broken Hill NSW 2880.
North Shore CB Club, PO Box, Pymble, NSW 2073.
November Alpha Club, PO Box 412, Narrandera NSW 2700.
Overland Radio Club Inc (Sydney Branch), PO Box 295, Dee Why Sydney NSW 2099.
Parkes Citizens Band Radio Club PO Box 525 Parkes NSW 2870.
Pathfinder CB Social Club of Aust. Queanbeyan/Canberra Div PO Box 771, Queanbeyan NSW 2620.
Pathfinder Radio Group NSW, PO Box 167, St Mary's NSW 2750.
Pioneer CB Radio and Social club, PO Box 34, Boolaroo NSW 2284.
Radio Rescue (NSW) Branch Operations Director, Galong NSW 2585.
REACT NSW State Team, 476 Parkinson St, Albury, NSW 2640.
Riverina Radio CB Social Club, 29 Parkinson Cres, Griffith NSW 2680.
Rough As Guts Radio (RAG), Finns Rd, Kulnura, RMB 22442, NSW 2250
Shallow Water Sierra Whisky Club, PO Box 857, Nowra NSW 2540.
Skydiver CB Radio Club Unit 7/17 Lansdown Rd Canleyvale NSW 2166
Tango Romeo Echo CB Club, PO BOx 688, Taree NSW 2430.
Tango-X-ray Side-band Radio Club of Australia, PO Box 664, Castle Hill NSW 2154.
The Beam Club of Australia, PO Box 633, Brookvale NSW 2100.
The TT UHF CB Radio Club, c/o PO Box C31 Clarence St. Sydney NSW 2000.
Titan Radio Group, PO Box 195 Blacktown NSW 2148.
United Citizen Band Radio Clubs of NSW, PO Box 104, Strathfield, NSW 2135.
Viking CB Radio Club PO Box 133 Miller NSW 2168.
Western Radio club, PO Box 88, Enfield NSW 2136.
Whisky Lima Radio Club PO Bpx 139 Revesby NSW 2212.
Williams Valley Radio Club PO BOx 50 Dungong NSW 2420.
Wombat CB Radio Club, PO Box 348, Lavington NSW 2641.

WA

ACREM WA, South West Division, 68 Rogers Avenue, Katanning WA 6317.
Albany Commns Group 65 Hassells St. Elleker Albany WA 6330.
Alpha Whiskey Alpha Radio Club 180 Bay View Dve Little Grove Albany WA 6330.
Alpha Whiskey Alpha Club, PO Box 997, Albany WA 7330.
Australian Radio Group, PO Box 1118, Fremantle 6160.
Aust Radio Group, PO Box 429, Merredin WA 6415.
Black Swans CQDX Club of WA, PO Box 220, Kwinana WA 6167.
Bunbury Radio Club Inc, PO Box 31, Bunbury WA 6230.
Canning River Radio Club, 53 Parkside Ave, Mt Pleasant WA 6153.
Carnarvon Radio Club, PO Box 294, Carnarvon WA 6701.
CREST WA (Inc) PO Box 1200, East Victoria Park WA 6101.
Echo Radio CB Club, PO Box 519, Claremont, WA 6010.
Freedom Group Perth, PO Box 9, Palmyra WA 6157.
Gascoyne CB Club PO Box 947 Carnarvon WA 6701.
Golden Hawk CB Radio Club of Australia, PO Box 1183, Bunbury WA 6230.
Katanning CB Club, C/- PO Box 51, Katanning 6317.
Perth Acrem and Mustang CB Social Club, PO Box 193, Greenwood WA 6024.
Pilbara Radio Group, PO Box 95, Parraburdoo WA 6754.
Port Hedland Whisky Alpha CB Club, PO Box 2142, South Hedland WA 6722.
REACT WA State Team, 8B Frisby Crt, South Headland, WA.
Sandgroper Club of South West WA PO Box 249 Collie WA 6225.
Scorpion Intnl CB Radio Club of WA PO Box 51 Rockingham WA 6168.
Southern River Radio Group PO Box 38 Kelmscott WA 6111
The Mango Club, PO Box 241, Hillarys WA 6025.
The UHF Assn of WA Inc, PO Box 176, Hillarys WA 6025.
Titan Radio Group, PO Box 210, Kwinana WA 6167.
Wanneroo Citizens Radio Emergency Services Teams WA Inc, PO Box 402, Wanneroo WA 6065.
Western Radio Club, PO Box 484, Collie WA 6225.
Wild Geese International Combat Veterans Radio Communications Group, PO Box 673, Cannington WA 6107.

QLD

ACRIM QLD Inc, PO Box 213, Everton Park Brisbane Qld 4053.
Alpha Whiskey, PO Box 936, Bundaberg, Qld 4670.
Alpha Whiskey Club, 49 Whylie St. Thabeban Bundaberg Qld 4670.
Australian Bulldog Club, 37 Sunderland St, Garbutt Townsville Qld 4814.
Australian International CB Social Club, PO Box 150, Inala Qld 4077.
Brisbane Volunteer Emergency Monitoring Service, 22 Reks St, Buranda Qld 4012.
Bunya Radio Club, PO Box 575, Kingaroy Qld 4610.
CB Callbook Club of Licensed Operators PO Box 593 Palm Beach 4221.
Color Postcard Express International QSL and Postcard Swap Club (Australian Rep), PO Box 111, Oakey Qld 4401.
Dirty Water CB Club of Australia, PO Box 262, Morningside Qld 4170.
Golden City CB Club, PO Box 557, Gympie Qld 4570.
Hervey Bay and District CB Club, PO Box 382, Pialba Qld 4655.
Inlanders CB Radio Club of Australia, PO Box 5712, Rockhampton Mail Centre Qld 4702.
KKK 106 Radio Club, PO Box 6547, Goldcoast Mail Centre Qld 4217.
Leichardt CB Radio Club, PO Box 941, Leichardt Qld 4825.
Musketeer Club, PO Box 135, Ferny Grove 4055.
Premiere Radio Social Club, PO Box 631, Sunnybank Qld 4109.
Radio Rescue (Qld Branch) State President, 33 Sharon Cres, Kelso, Townsville 4815.

CB Action Club Register

Radio Rescue (Qld Bch) 33 Sharon Cres. Kelso, Townsville Qld 4815.
REACT QLD State Team, Box 5227, Cairns Mail Centre Nth Qld 4871.
Rockhampton Citizens Band Radio Club, PO Box 5230, Rockhampton Mail Centre 4702.
Rum City CB Club PO Box 229 Qld 4670
Sunshine Coast CB Radio Club, PO Box 379, Maroochydore, Qld 4558.
Southern Cross Radio Club Inc., PO Box 529, Darra, Qld 4076.
The United Pheasant Pluckers, South Calliope St, Springsure 4722.
Toowoomba District CB Club, PO Box 5387, Toowoomba Qld 4350.
Toowoomba Mountain CB Club, PO Box 5299, Toowoomba Qld 4350
Ultra-lite Radio Club of Australia, PO Box 191, Carina 4152.
Unicorn Radio of Australia PO Box 787 Woodridge Qld 4114.
Zodiac International DX Radio of australia, PO Box 189, Albion, Qld 4010.
Zulu Alpha Foxtrot CB Radio Club, PO Box 5122, Rockhampton Mail Centre Qld 4701.

SA

Australian Citizen Radio Monitors SA Inc (ACRM), PO Box 83, Prospect SA 5082.
Australian Independent Monitoring Service Inc, SA Division, PO Box 86, Stepney SA 5069.
Charlie X-Ray Citizen's Band Radio Club Inc., PO Box 824, Salisbury SA 5108.
Christie's Beach Citizens Band Radio Club, PO Box 22, Moana SA 5169.
Coonawarra CB Radio Club, 2 Eyre St, Barmera SA 5345.
Eagle Radio Group, PO Box 302, Morphett Vale SA 5162.
Eureka Base CB Radio Club Friends of Brain Injured Childrem PO Box 633, Elizabeth 5112.
I Hate Washing Dishes, PO Box 210, McLaren Vale SA 5171.
Linear Radio Club, PO Box 70, Elizabeth Fields, SA 5113.
REACT Marine Rescue Service, 1 Flavel Terrace, Murray Bridge, SA 5253.
REACT SA State Team, 1 Flavel Tce, Murray Bridge 5253.
Scorpion CB Radio Club, PO Box 312, Elizabeth SA 5112.
Southside CB Radio Club, PO Box 95, Glenelg SA 5045.
South West Radio and Social Club Inc, Box 381, Morphett Vale SA 5162.
Sovereign Base Social and Radio Club Inc. PO Box 526 Elizabeth 5112.
SPEAK Wireless Club International, PO Box 948, Murray Bridge 5253.
Strangers CB Social Club, PO Box 79, Ingle Farm SA 5098.
Trans-World CB Radio Club International, 90 Crozier Ave, Daw Park SA 5041.
Zulu Whiskey QSL Club, PO Box 16, Smithfield, SA 5114.

VIC

Australian Citizens Radio Monitors Gippsland PO Box 251 Morwell Vic 3840.
Australian Radio Social Club, PO Box 222, Seaford Vic 3198.
Bell Bird Club of Vic, C/- PO Box 39, St Andrews Vic ;3761.
Bendigo Radio CB and Social Club Inc. PO Box 862, Bendigo, Vic. 3550.
Bravo Mike Radio Club, PO Box 94, Melton Vic 3337.
Bravo Sierra Bravo Radio Club (BSB), PO Box 277, Bendigo Vic 3550.
Carrajung UHF CB Repeater Assn, PO Box 55, Port Albert Vic 3971.
CB Spoon Collectors Club, PO Box 251, Morwell Vic 3840.
Cobram & District Coffee Club, PO Box 478, Cobram 3644.
Eureka Base CB Radio Club Friends of Brain Injured Children, PO Box 251, Morwell 3840.
Fosters CB Radio Club, PO Box 229, Cranbourne Vic 3977.
Gippsland Emergency Monitoring Service (Inc) PO Box 983 Morwell Vic 3840.
Gippsland Repeater Assocn, PO Box 77, Sale Vic 3850.
Grampians BC Club, C/- J. Delley, 1 Johnston St, Stawell Vic 3380.
Horsham CB Club, PO Box 730, Horsham Vic 3400.
International Crusade Assocn, PO Box 2616W, GPO Melbourne Vic 3001.
Jack Daniels Whisky Club PO Box 278 Preston Vic 3072.
Kilowatt Radio Club of Australia, PO Box 428, Mt Eliza Vic 3930.
Mary Delta 27 MHz Radio Club, 31 Rosebud Pde, Rosebud Vic 3939.
Mike India CB Radio Club, PO Box 1499, Mildura Vic 3500.
Nightowl Radio Club of Victoria, PO Box 97, Huntingdale Vic 3166.
Omega Radio Club of Victoria, PO Box 50, Chadstone Centre Vic 3148.
Radio Charity Group, Latrobe Valley, PO Box 237, Chruchill Vic 3842.
Radio Emergency Associated Citizens Team, 113 Blair St, Portland Vic 3303.
Radio Enthusiasts Club of the Blind, PO Box 219, Glenroy Vic 3046.
Radio Rescue (Vic) Regional Co-ordinator, 117 Bruce Rd, Safety Beach 3936.
REACT VIC State Team, 5 Damian Crt, Wodonga Vic 3690.
Region Dandenong CB Radio and Social Club, PO Box 57, Doveton Vic 31277.
ringwood & District Radio & Social Club, PO Box 496, Croydon 3136.
Riviera Radio Club of Australia, C/- P. Robertson, 19 Taylor St, Bairnsdale Vic 3875.
Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol, PO Box 182 Brighton Vic 3186.
Ethnic Ether (Double EE) Assocn, 31 Bride St Hampton Park Vic. 3976.
Scramblers CB Radio Club of Vic. PO Box 103, Braybrook, Vic. 3019.
thern Cross Radio Group, PO Box 365, Leongatha Vic 3953.
Sovereign Radio Club, PO Box 21, Sebastapol, Ballarat Vic 3356.
Tango Victor Radio Club, PO Box 3, Timboon Vic 3268.
The Black Panther DXing Social Club PO Box 527 Bendigo Vic 3550.
Ultra-Hi Club, 8 Peter St, Bell Post Hill Vic 3215.
Victorian Scorpion Radio Club (South Gippsland), 39 Quigley St, Morwell Vic 3840.
Victoria UHF Radio Club Inc, PO Box 407 Mount Waverley Vic 3149.
28 Whiskey Group Social Club Base of vic C/- Bob, 33 Kennedy St Longwarry Vic 3816.

TAS

Blue Lagoon Social Radio Club, 9 Walker St. Ulverstone Tas. 7315.
FIB UHF Club, PO Box 18, Ridgley Tas 7321.
REACT Tasmania State Team, RMB 7055, National Park, Tas. 7140.
Sierra Tango Radio Club, PO Box 433, New Norfolk Tas 7140.
Ulverstone Radio Operators Club PO Box 432 Ulverstone Tas 7315.
United Frequency Operators of Tasmania, 7 Jacob Ave, Georgetown Tas 7253.

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Australian Citizen Radio Monitors, NT branch Inc, PO Box 40327, Casuarina NT 5792.
Darwin CB Radio Club, PO Box 40733, Casaurina, NT 5792.

INTERNATIONAL

Dayglo QSL Club, 13 Synite Place, Rostrevor, BT34-3EP, Co Down, Northern Ireland, UK.
Ethnic Ether (Double EE) Assocn, 31 Bride St Hampton Park Vic 3976
Gumboot QSL Club, PO Box 4127, New Plymouth 4630 New Zealand.
Lakeside QSL Club of Australia PO Box 593 Palm Beach Qld, Australia 4221.
REACT Australia Inc. Headquareters, 1 Flavel Tce, Murray Bridge 5253.
REACT NZ CH5000, PO Box 22 — 527 Christchurch, NZ.
REACT International Inc, 3653 Woodhead Dve, Northbrook, Illinois USA 60062.
Three Vikings QSL Club, PO Box 34, 642 21 Katrineholm Sweden.
Unite Mike Mike International, PO Box 23, B4650, Herve, Belgium.
Wainui Radio Club, PO Box 836, Wellington NZ.

Get your club's nake in the register. Send us some details of your activities and your areas of interest. Maybe we can help you get some more members.

CLUB NEWS

JACK DANIELS WHISKEY CLUB

This group is perhaps one of the few survivors from the good old "pirate" days, and now are approaching their tenth year. It is hoped that a gathering of members to celebrate their tenth birthday will be held in Broken Hill this year in October. At this stage nothing definite has been planned, and anyone wishing to assist with the organisation of the get together is urged to write to the secretary without delay.

To better administer the club the following changes have been implemented within the executive. The Secretary/Registrar is Gerry, JDW 103. The Assistant Secretary Membership is Peter, JDW 414, and the Assistant Secretary Publicity is Ken, JDW 103. All correspondence is to be addressed to PO Box 278 Preston Vic 3072. Additionally, a Liaison Officer is to be appointed for each state or territory as well as an Overseas Liaison Officer. The Liaison Officers appointed to date are: Victoria, JDW 80, Ken, South Australia JDW 197 Ollie, and International, Geoff JDW 26. Any members interested in being Liaison Officer for areas not yet appointed are asked to contact Gerry JDW 303.

It appears that there is some confusion with the allocation of numbers to certain members. All officially recognised numbers are available in a listing ($5.00 incl postage) which may be obtained from the Secretary. Only the numbers on the official JDW list will be recognised. Any person wishing to join the group must be nominated and then seconded by two current members before their application will be considered. Membership is not available on request.

VIKING CB RADIO CLUB

Some more news has come to hand from one of Sydney's leading CB clubs — the Vikings.

Last year's Red Shield Appeal benefited from the Vikings' efforts to the tune of $700. They have also become a regular fixture at the Liverpool Hospital Fete, assisting the local SES with communications.

In June, their inter-club ten pin bowling tournment kicks off once more, and is still the most hotly-contested trophy amongst the CB radio clubs of Sydney.

The regular Viking Newsletter is still going strong, and they look forward to hearing from other clubs, so they can print news and keep their own club list up to date.

Did anyone hear about the use of CB radio in the rescue of the boat Genesis of the coast of Queensland, 400 km north-east of Gladstone? Amateurs were given early credit, but in an article published by the suburban newspaper 'The Liverpool Leader', it was pointed out that members of the Viking and Zulu CB clubs picked up the mayday call on Thursday 30 October, 1986.

It is believed that Viking member Rev. Mohr, from Cambden, was the first to receive the call, which was then heard by other local CBers, and was then relayed to the authorities by telephone.

Congrat's are due to the Viking Club for their efforts, and I'm sure that 1987 will see them continue to bring the very best that CB has to offer, to the community.

The club can be contacted at PO Box 133 Miller NSW 2166.

OMEGA RADIO CLUB

On Wednesday, 4 February, it was my pleasure to be the guest of Melbourne's Omega Radio Club for their weekly broadcast session. I'd made a few appearances before, but over the landline — this time, it was — gasp! — LIVE.

And what a job the broadcast team do. Each week (except for a break around December/January), the dedicated group present CB news, club items and then follow with a guest speaker and question-/answer session.

The broadcasts are made from the home of club president Barry, VBO-671, but use the club's official callsign of VOC-001. Moderators' duties are shared — during this broadcast, the first for 1987, VBQ-929 Leon performed the task.

Barry's home, normally impressive, takes on another dimension when you are ushered 'upstairs'. It's a damned studio, almost — yet there's only the basic gear, available from any decent electronics shop. I've been told that the only difference between an amateur and a professional is the attitude — when you sit in on a broadcast from VOC-001, then you know it's true.

After the news and club round-up, the guest session unfolds — Leon fields the questions and eases you into the talk-back mode, and then calls for breakers. They are acknowledged about six at a time, and each one called back for his or her question to the guest.

Compliments to the listeners, too, who are patient, courteous, and treat you as they would any guest in their own house. After more questions, comes a repeat of the news, and those all-important Tattslotto numbers. Then, back to the interview.

More to their credit, the Omega Radio Club does not claim any channel as their own for the broadcast. This is decided on the evening, depending on which channels are clear, and the chosen frequency announced on ch 11 prior to the commencement of the news.

There is no way to begin to describe the sheer variety of topics which have been covered in the broadcasts over the past years. I mean, it's all been done.

To Barry and Margaret, Leon and all the broadcast team — you're doing a magnificent job.

★ ★ ★ ★

A bit short on for news this issue, aren't we? Well, these were the only clubs that bothered to put pen to paper and contact me. I guess, I'll have to assume that all the others have folded or aren't doing anything interesting — after all, no-one has told me otherwise.

Get the hint?

Here's another clue — send info on your club's activities to Club News, PO Box 429 Milsons Point NSW 2061.

CLUB REGISTER FORM

If you wish to have your club name listed in the CB ACTION Club Register, please ask your club secretary to fill in this coupon and post to "CB ACTION CLUB REGISTER, Box 628E GPO, Melbourne, Victoria, 3001."

Due to printing deadlines, it is possible for new entries to take up to two issues before appearing.

If you don't want to cut your copy of CB ACTION magazine, either photostat the coupon or send your entry in on a separate letter giving all the relevant details.

Overseas entries are welcome.

Please print or type — applications that are either illegible or not completely filled out may not be included in the listing.

Authorised by .....Pres /Sec.

CB Action Club Register

FULL CLUB NAME .....

.....

ADDRESS .....

.....

P/CODE ..... STATE .....

Classifieds

SWAP near new Commodore C64 computer for modified CB radio or cheap ham trans. Genuine replies Wayne Hardman, PO Box 48, Invermay, Tasmania 7250.

FOR SALE, Cobra 138 XLR-A 18 channel CB radio AM and SSB external 200 channel switching 5 and 10 kHz spacing $145. Ring (02) 344 6105

WANTED CIRCUIT AWA Teleradio AM - 2182 etc Model 80 Audio generator circuit CSB 150 marine radio circuit Pearce-Simpson 18 channel Lion 40 CB. FM deviation meter to 400 MHz (071) 96 1186

FOR SALE 40 channel Hornet 11 AM/SSB SWR meter 120 ft 50 ohm cable base antenna mobile aerial power supply $200. John Wagstaff 2/21 Violet Cres. E. Brighton (03) 592 2396

SSB. Reply to buyer, PO Box 24.031, East Unwood, Christchurch, New Zealand. All replies answered — four units wanted.

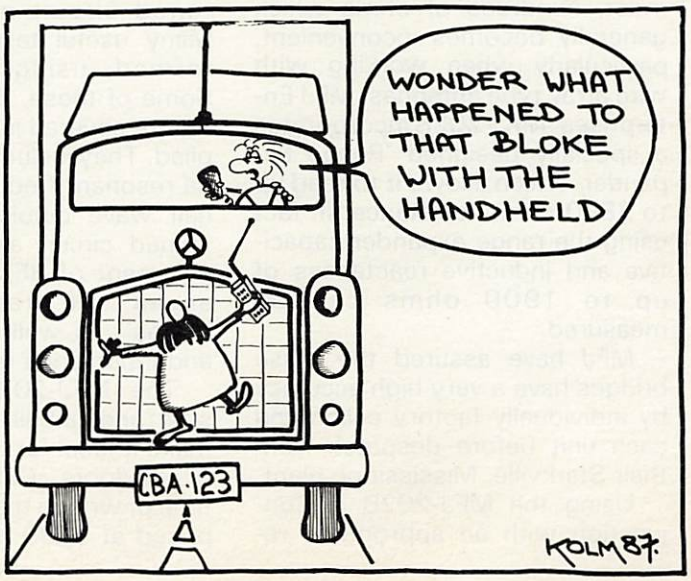
AUSTRALIAN International CB Social Club. New members wanted must be licensed. For details send SAE for quick reply to Box 150 PO, Inala, Qld. 4077.

WANTED latest USA CB books. Write to Al 01 Bill, PO Box 150, Inala, Qld. 4077.

FOR SALE power supply adjustable from 3 to 50 volts at 5 amps. In A1 condition $190 ONO. Phone (056) 55 1700 or write to G. Whyoon, Bena Rd, Korumburra 3950 Vic.

BASE ANTENNA UHF CB model 47.5 11 element yagi $50. New motor cycle UFG CB antenna $30. Both premier makes. VK3DPP (03) 598 5082

WANTED Moonraker transceiver 100 watts



New Gear

NEW FROM MOBILE ONE

In a never ending search for perfection, Mobile One have come up with the goods in a couple of different areas, but naturally to do with antennas.

They can now offer a new type boot or bonnet mount, in either matt black, or stainless steel. The new mount is designed to eliminate the need for drilling holes, or damaging the vehicle in any way. The SBM boot mount has a much lower profile than the older types, and when used with Mobile One's patented mobile dipole mount, base and lead assembly it is possible to mount whips with the Australian Standard 5/16 x 26 TPI female thread.

With the addition of a suitable connector such as the SOC co-axial SO239 base type, the mount can be made to accommodate whip antennas with a PL259 base termination.

Another Mobile One innovation is a new UHF type base which has a moulded base featuring side entry of the co-axial cable. The plug comes complete with co-axial cable and PL259 connector already installed. It would be ideal for gutter mount antennas.

Finally, Mobile One can now supply a new conventional UHF base, which features a screw thread to hold the co-axial cable in place. This can be purchased as a separate unit, and as we understand as a kit, complete with lead and PL259 plug.

See your nearest Mobile One stockist for more details and prices.

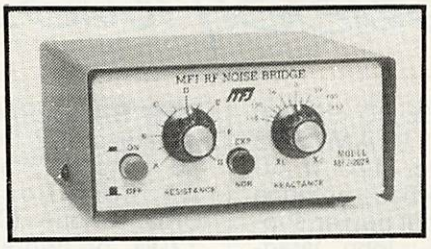
MFJ ANTENNA NOISE BRIDGE

GFS Electronic Imports of Mitcham, Victoria, have available an Antenna Noise Bridge, the MFJ-202B, which they claim is capable of measuring resistance, reactance and impedance up into the region of thousands of ohms.

Most noise bridges allow only measurements in the tens or, at most, hundreds of ohms which generally becomes inconvenient, particularly when working with wire array type antennas. MFJ Enterprises' MFJ-202B incorporates a specially designed 'Range Expander' which allows it to read up to 3800 ohms resistance. In fact using the range expander capacitive and inductive reactances of up to 1900 ohms can be measured.

MFJ have assured the noise bridges have a very high accuracy by individually factory calibrating each unit before despatch from their Starkville, Mississippi, plant.

Using the MFJ-202B in conjunction with an appropriate receiver over its operating frequency range of 1 to 100 MHz opens up a whole new world of tuned circuit measurements. Many useful tasks can be performed, using MFJ's bridge. Some of these, but by no means all, are covered in the manual supplied. They include 'Finding antenna resonant frequency, 'Cutting a half wave dipole to frequency', 'Tuned circuit alignment', 'Measurement of RF amplifier impedances', RF transformers and baluns', as well as 'Capacitance and inductance measurement'.



The MFJ-202B's small neat size and inbuilt power source make it ideal for use both indoors or outdoors. GFS advise at the time of writing the MFJ-202B was priced at $299 plus $10 P&P.

DICKSMITH ELECTRONICS SELLS HEATHKITS

If there is one name known the world over for quality in electronics it's Heathkit.

For more than 50 years, the Heath Company of Benton Harbour, Michigan, has given hobbyists and enthusiasts build-it-yourself kits which are at least as good — and sometimes much better than — commercially available models.

More than that, and possibly what has given Heathkits their name, is the highly detailed, step-by-step construction manuals that Heath meticulously prepare for each kit.

Add to this the huge range of kits — everything from AM transistor radios, through all types of test equipment, right up to the amazing Hero Robot. Kits for the home, the car, for education, amateur radio . . . you name it, there's one in the Heathkit range.

Until now, Heathkits have been readily available through most of the Western World — except Australia.

Now that's all changed.

Dick Smith Electronics has recently been appointed Heathkit Distributor for Australia and New Zealand.

Initially, some 20 kits have been selected as ''off-the-shelf'' lines in major Dick Smith Electronics stores (some stores may have to order for you).

Of the other hundreds of products in the Heathkit catalogue, Dick Smith Electronics will order (on an indent basis, against a firm deposit) direct from the USA. Some kits are obviously not suitable for Australia (such as NTSC colour TVs, etc) and other kits are not available for licensing reasons (such as computers).

For Further Information Contact: Dick Smith Electronics Pty Ltd, PO Box 321, North Ryde, NSW 2113. Telephone: (02) 888 3200. Telex: AA20036 FAX: (02) 888 3631. Cables: DIKSMIT, Sydney, or your nearest Dick Smith store.

TWO FROM ELECTROPHONE

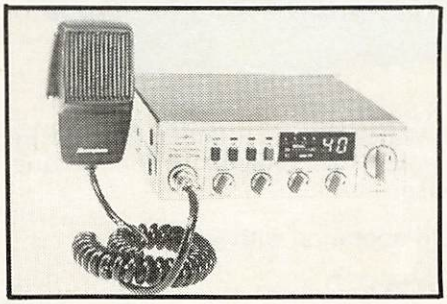
Standard Communications Pty. Ltd. have released the Electrophone 800 Series 27 MHz. Citizens Band 40 Channel Mobile Transceivers. The 800 Series break with tradition of the Electrophone brand in that neither model is manufactured in Japan by Cybernet, who have traditionally manufactured the Electrophone CB products. The two new models, TX820 AM 40 Channel and the TX840 AM/SSB 40 Channel Mobiles replace the existing TX526 and TX565 respectively.

Another 'first' by Electrophone on both new models is the instant recall of the Channel 8 Truckies Road Alert Channel.

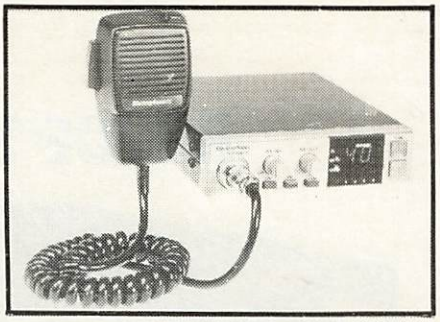
By introducing the 800 Series with Auto Recall on Channel 8, Standard Communications is offering the Australian CBer a unique Australian facility rather than offering the traditional Channel 9 recall facility transplanted from the USA into local sets.

Channel 8 recall is the result of extensive Engineering Development by Standard Communications at their Research facility in Gladesville. The TX820 features a specially developed priority chip to give instant recall on the truckies' Road Alert Channel.

The TX840 is a full featured AM/SSB offering the true enthusiast a high performance, feature packed set. Along with Channel 8 Recall, the TX840 offers separate volume, squelch clarifier controls, large LED readout, analogue channel selector knob, signal modulation indicator, function indicator LEDs, switchable noise blanker, ANL, local distance switch, DX and public address facility.



The slimline TX820 AM set not only offers the Channel 8 Recall but has an additional Recall Button situated on the microphone in addition to the front panel. Channel selection is achieved via electronic up-down buttons. The TX820 incorporates selectable ANL and local distance switches, along with independent volume and squelch controls. Both transceivers are coloured in the Electrophone champagne gold.



With the Channel 8 facility, the 800 Series allow the operator, at the touch of a button, to work between channel 8 and his nominated talk channel. When the sets are connected directly to the battery side of the accessories switch, the sets when switched "on" will return automatically to the last used channel.

G.M.E. GX286 27 MHz. AM MARINE HANDHELD

The new GX286 27 MHz. 5 watt, 6 channel AM marine handheld transceiver utilises traditional commercial radio construction which ensures an extremely rugged and durable handheld radio ideally suited to the marine environment.

The GX 286 comes complete with 6 Marine Channels fitted: 27.86 — work frequency for 27.88, 27.88 — distress & calling, 27.90 — club base stations, 27.91 — ship to shore, 27.94 — club event, 27-96 — ship to ship.

With the minimum of controls, the GX286 is extremely easy to operate. The unit incorporates variable squelch, channel selector, 'On/Off' volume control and LED battery indicator. Weighing only 650 grams, the unit is ideally suited where portability is a key factory.

The GX286 comes complete with shoulder strap and unique rain jacket which allows the set to be operated while fully enclosed within the rain jacket. This feature allows for additional protection when the unit is used in exposed conditions.

GME have designed the GX286 to operate from traditional alkaline cells, a nicad pack, or an external 12V supply. The unit comes standard with a 12V DC power-charging led complete with connectors that can be wired permanently into the boat's 12V electrical system. When connected to the GX286 it provides instant power and a trickle charging source to the nicad pack when fitted.

GME offer as an optional accessory to the GX286, a Nicad Pack BP950 and the BCE1445 Battery Charger. with the nicad pack and the 240V wall charger, the GX286 can be charged both on the boat from the existing 12V supply or, when at home, trickle charge overnight.

PEARCE-SIMPSON

NEW PRO

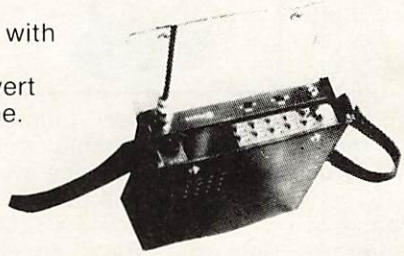
ROYCE TS 133 THE ULTIMATE UHF

This will fit where YOU want it!

(Actual size 27 mm x 162 mm x 143 mm)

Official radio transceiver for Wynn's Safari 1986.
FEATURES: Fully Electronic; Full 5 Watts; Repeater Fitted; Reverse Repeater; Scanning; one touch for Emergency, Call and Highway; Remote Channel Selector Microphone; Ultra Light Weight (700 gs).
OPTIONS: CTCSS; Selcall; Portabase.

The portapak will allow full handheld operation with rechargeable ni-cad battery packs.
Accessories will allow the Royce TS133 to convert from mobile — to handheld — to base. All in one.



Leopard MK II

Simplicity at its best!
Large, wide spaced knobs for easier operation, Volume, Squelch, Repeater, Analogue Meter, CTCSS & Selcall Options, RX & TX Indicators, Full 5W Output, Front Mounted Mic.

Also from the same price: Super Cheetah 40ch AM/SSB, Super Lynx MkII 40ch AM, Trucker 40ch AM, Alleycat 40ch AM, Emergency Radio 40ch AM (option Battery Pack), Royce TS425 Deluxe 40ch AM, Super Puma 40ch AM/SSB, Super Cheetah MkII 40ch AM/SSB, Super Jaguar 40ch AM/SSB, Super Panther MkIII 40ch AM/SSB, Super Bengal MkII 40ch AM/SSB Base.

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION SUPPLIERS TO: wynn's Safari 1985-1986

1986 REDEX
BOURKE TO BAROSSA BASH

HATADI PEARCE-SIMPSON

CT RELEASES

Super Cheetah MK II Deluxe 40ch AM/SSB

with Dual Watch

A Better Cheetah!!!
Channel 9, NB/ANL, PA, AM/LSB/USB Indicators, RX/TX Indicators, Channel 9 and DW Indicators, Mike Gain, Clarifier, Mode Selector, Squelch, On/Off/Volume, Front Mounted Mic Socket.
TRY IT — YOU'LL LOVE IT.

Super Tomcat MK II 40ch AM/SSB

The budget unit that delivers all the goods:
Volume; Squelch; RF Gain; Clarifier; ANL; Noise Blanker; PA and Extension Speaker Sockets; TX Indicator.
AND ALL IN A SLIM, COMPACT SIZE!!

CUB 40ch AM

It's tiny but don't let the name fool you:
Features: Volume, Squelch, ANL, Channel 9, PA, S/RF Indicator, Electronic Channel Change, Extension Speaker Socket.

Distributed by Trade Dealer Network throughout Australia

HATADI PEARCE-SIMPSON

HATADI ELECTRONICS CORPORATION PTY LTD (inc in NSW)

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You have been waiting a long time for a fully synthesized compact portable radio. ICOM quality can now work for you in the UHF CRS band. As a farmer, tradesman, salesman or trucker, the reliable IC-40 will provide a high standard of communications with easy operation, with all 40 channels available as standard.

Simple to use. Slide-on batteries lock positively into place. Several packs are available providing up to 3 watts output, and allowing the radio to be used while another flat battery is being charged. Vehicle regulator pack is also available.

Optional accessories. ICOM offers the most complete range of accessories available today for handheld radios. See them at your local dealer, ask him to show you the HS-10 headset, and the mobile cradle then you will see why this radio replaces the conventional mobile.

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The IC-40 is D.O.C. approved (≠ 250028).